Elections 2010

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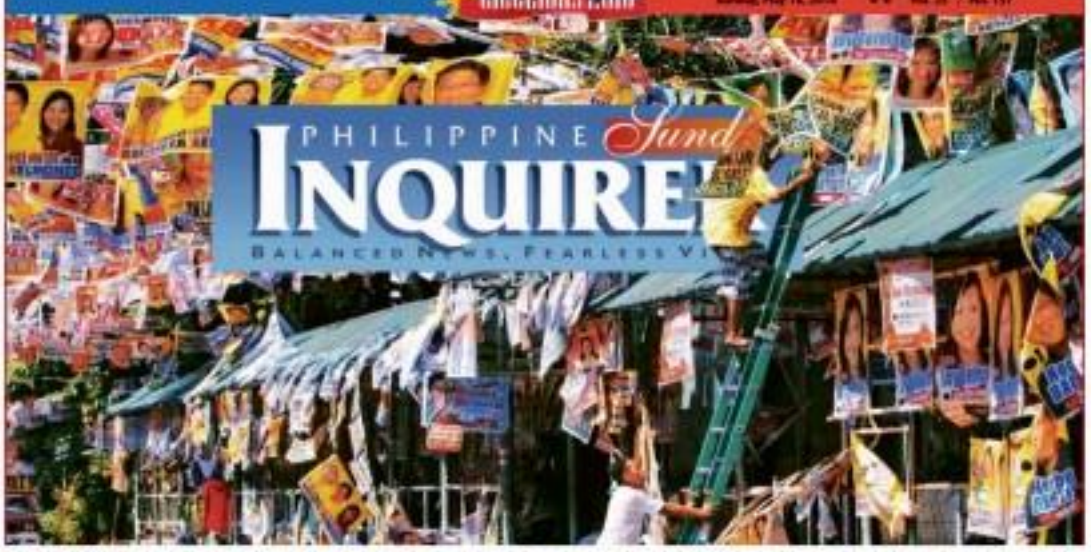

ELECTION MADNESS This is the Herculean task presented to cleanup men in Barangay Pinyahan in Quezon City in the aftermath of the May 10 national elections—a jungle of tarps and posters in expensive living color. For the post-election happy ending, turn to Page A9.

GMA firms up Lakas grip

9 senators' proclamation fastest ever in RP history

By Kristine L. Alave
and Norman Bordadora

THE OLD IS MADE NEW AGAIN.

The Commission on Elections, acting as the national board of canvassers, yesterday proclaimed the first nine winners of the Senate race, all returning veterans except for a lone neophyte, the son of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The remaining three slots in the group of 12 new senators who will serve in the 15th Congress until 2016 will be proclaimed after the Comelec completes its canvass.

The poll body decided to proclaim the nine top vote-getters in last Monday's elections, as the approximately 2 million remaining uncanvassed votes will not materially affect their standing.

The proclamation of the nine new senators came just five days after the voting. It was the fastest proclamation in the country's history because the counting and canvassing of votes

FINAL TALLY A-17

This special time worth timeless, precious mementos

By Fe Zamora

WHEN A BELOVED ARTIST MEETS a beloved former President, it's one of life's "precious moments."

Samuel John Butcher, creator of the "Precious Moments" inspirational greetings cards, posters and figurines, has added a "Cory figurine" to the "Precious Moments" collectibles, in honor of the late President Corazon Aquino and in memory of their friendship.

The porcelain figurine shows a young girl with classic teardrop eyes looking at a shoe marked "Cory," the nickname of the former President who succumbed to cancer in August last year.

Also inscribed at the base of the figurine are the words, "Who's gonna fill your shoes?"

According to Jojo Sotelo, a spokesperson for Butcher, the words express the artist's admiration for the world's "Icon of People Power" and "Saint of Democracy."

"He is a big fan of Cory and her family. He admired her clean image; he always liked the simplicity of her lifestyle," Sotelo said of Butcher, who resides in New Washington, a municipality in Aklan.

According to Sotelo, the image of the young girl looking at Aquino's shoe was originally a painting Butcher made for the birthday of Aquino's third child, Pinky Abellada.

After a dinner with the Aquino

THE SPECIAL A-9

IF THE SHOE FITS This ceramic figurine by Samuel John Butcher, who lives in Aklan, was originally a painting made by the artist for Pinky Aquino-Abellada. Under the "Precious Moments" label, the artwork is on sale to benefit the Aquino foundation.

She says she only wants to be like Sonia Gandhi

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo retook the chairmanship of Lakas-Kampi-CMD from House Deputy Speaker Amelita Villarosa by a unanimous consensus of its members in a caucus she called in Malacañang on Thursday night, as the party began consolidating its ranks in the run-up to the opening of Congress in July.

More than 180 reelected and newly elected congressmen attended the caucus called by Ms Arroyo.

Assured of a seat in the House after winning as representative of the second district of her home province Pampanga, Ms Arroyo has reportedly ordered her officials to solidify the party.

The party is dead set on fielding President Arroyo for the speakership and intends to give presidential front-runner Benigno Aquino III's Liberal Party (LP) a good fight.

"Definitely, we're considering putting her up as our candidate for Speaker. As she herself said, 'let's keep our minds open to this option,'" Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo's political adviser, told the Inquirer yesterday on the phone.

GMA FIRMS UP A-9

Erap focuses on 'bocus PCOS'

By Norman Bordadora

BOCUS PCOS?

As "electronic Garci" system or some digital "bocus PCOS" could have affected the precinct-scan optical scan machines in the country's first automated elections that might have produced manipulated results instead of the true will of the voters, alleged the camp of former President Joseph Estrada.

ERAP'S A-9

'People's President' embraces destiny

By Thelma Sioson San Juan
Lifestyle Editor

(First of two parts)

ON A BRIGHT MORNING IN JUNE 1992, right after Fidel Ramos was sworn in as President at the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park, erstwhile First Son Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III was grinning from ear to ear as he walked away from the crowd.

He could now breathe easy, he would tell us after the inaugural rites, because he didn't have to live in fearful for the safety of his mother, he could lead an ordinary life, say goodbye to Malacañang, and perhaps have a normal love life at last, away from the prying media.

He could not have known then that 18 years later he would be preparing for his own swearing in, and a potentially controversial one at that.

Noynoy's likely ascendancy to the presidency, in what is shaping up to be an overwhelming mandate from the people, comes as a total surprise not just to the holders of power in this country, but even more so to himself.

"But I can't wear my torn T-shirt there, or my threadbare pants ... I really need only two rooms," Noynoy was

PEOPLE'S A-8

Binay still leads; LP says don't count Mar out

By Philip C. Tubeza
and Norman Bordadora

LIBERAL PARTY (LP) STANDARD-bearer Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III continued to dominate the presidential election in the partial and unofficial count of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible voting (PPCRV) as of 8:25 last night.

With votes from 68,849 precincts (or 80.16 percent of 76,475 precincts) already counted, Aquino had 13,828,589 votes, or 41.85 percent of the total votes cast for President.

But the vice presidential race remained tight with Jejomar Binay leading Aquino's running mate Mar Roxas by 610,488 votes: 13,489,346 (40.79 percent) to 12,670,866 (38.34 percent).

The LP refused to count Roxas out.

Based on the municipal certificates of canvass (COCs) that the party has gathered, Roxas will edge out Binay for the No. 2 post by some 280,000 votes, the LP's watchdog Avelino Cruz said yesterday.

The municipal COCs were obtained from all over the country and tabulated by Ateneo de Manila University professor Edmundo Lim, according to Cruz, who heads Bantay Boto, an organization guarding the votes for Aquino and Roxas.

The camp of Binay — the president of the United Opposition and the running mate of Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino standard-bearer Joseph Estrada — apparently does not have access to those

BINAY'S A-9

• **17 dead** in new violence in Bangkok • Roman Polanski hit by fresh sex allegations **WORLD** • **Convicted child** rapist Jalosjos: Zamboanga's new political kingpin • Teachers keep PCOS safe from gunmen in Lanao del Sur • Joc-joc Bolante loses bid for Capiz governor **ACROSS THE NATION** • **Noy urged** to void Corona's 'midnight appointment' **NEWS** • **'Kris out** of limelight? That's like fish out of water' **ENTERTAINMENT** • **Children's letters** to Noynoy **JUNIOR INQUIRER MAGAZINE** • **The original** dirty dancing or how to dance the tango in Buenos Aires • How a routine trip to England turned into a nightmare **SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE**

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY Mostly cloudy with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms; cooler by the end of the morning; light to moderate winds; temperature range: 27 to 34 degrees Celsius

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Naga	Partly Cloudy	Ozamiz	Partly Cloudy
Puerto Princesa	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Cotabato	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Catarman	Partly Cloudy	Basco	Mostly Cloudy

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6/55 GRAND LOTTO 2 9 18 24 38 42 — P10,000,000.00

Palace: Noy can swear before anyone

By TJ Burgonio

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY SAID IT WOULD respect the decision of presidential front-runner Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III to take his oath of office before someone other than incoming Chief Justice Renato Corona.

"We really do not have a ... anyone is sleeping that the presidential choice is the matter. I don't think ... elect, Senator Aquino, has the right to take his oath legally before anyone he chooses as long as the follow, I believe, is a member of the judiciary," Gary Olivar, deputy presidential spokesperson, said over dzRH radio.

Olivar observed that Aquino's pronouncement was consistent with his statements during the presidential campaign that he would not recognize President Macapagal-Arroyo's "midnight appointments."

Ms Arroyo appointed Corona to replace Chief Justice Reynato Puno, who retires tomorrow after the Supreme Court ruled that she could appoint Puno's successor even during an election period.

Aquino had asked Ms Arroyo to reconsider Corona's appointment, and lectured that he would break with the tradition of one president ... taking their oath before the Chief Justice and instead take his oath before a barangay official.

Olivar said the senator's pronouncement should be presumed to be a "symbolic gesture," and, hence, he should be given the "benefit of the doubt" so as whether he would defy the Chief Justice.

"It does not necessarily mean that this will be followed by actions on his part that may constitute illegal defiance of the Supreme Court. Let us not assume that he will do those things next," he said.

Symbolic gestures

Olivar added: "If he confines himself to symbolic gestures, but at the end of the day he still respects in substance the power of the Supreme Court when it comes to constitutional issues on the basis of which they did make the ruling that allowed President Arroyo to appoint the incoming Chief Justice Corona, then let us give him the benefit of the doubt."

Olivar said the public should respect Aquino's actions or statements as long as these conform to the rules.

"In order to become a rules-based society, we have to learn to follow the rules even if they are imperfect, even if we don't agree with them, even if they are wrong," he said.

Olivar said he understood Aquino's position that his oath-taking before Corona would weaken any case he might file questioning the high court's March 17 ruling allowing Ms Arroyo to appoint Puno's successor.

"I can certainly see the logic there," he said.

"Then is why we say if the rules allow him to take his oath before somebody else, then he has the prerogative to do that—whatever his political reasons are, is really doesn't concern us; has the right to do that and that right should be respected. We may object to his decision, but we cannot controvert his right to make that decision."

He disagreed with Secretary Ricardo Saludo's earlier position that if Aquino ordered a resignation Corona as Chief Justice, he risks violating the Constitution, and faces possible impeachment.

"I don't think it's an impeachable offense because I don't think anybody is saying that he's breaking the law. If he's not breaking the law you cannot impeach him," Olivar said.

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Give teacher-BEIs more pay, DepEd asks Comelec

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DepEd) yesterday appealed support for the calls made by teachers who served as members of boards of election inspectors (BEIs) for an increase in their allowances.

In a statement, Education Secretary Mona Valisno said an increased allowance or honorarium for BEI members would be fitting recognition of the teachers' big role in keeping the country's first-ever automated elections last week orderly and credible.

"Our teachers braved the huge crowds. They absorbed the ire and frustration of the voters, they watched technical issues sometimes without the assistance of the Smartmatic technicians, but more importantly, they gave credibility to the elections. So I don't think this is too much to ask," said Valisno.

Several teachers' groups last week asked the Commission on Elections (Comelec) for a 50 percent increase in the honoraria of the 220,200 teachers who served as BEIs. The originally agreed upon honoraria was P4,500.

The Teachers' Dignity Coalition (TDC) also lamented that many teachers had received their honoraria as late as last week.

TDC chair Benjo Basas said, "It is quite ironic that everyone, even Comelec, agrees that the success of the recently concluded elections was largely attributed to the teachers, yet the compensation for our hardwork is not prioritized."

The group Action and Solidarity for the Empowerment of Teachers (Anset) said teachers deserved a higher honoraria, saying that experience of problems from the poll body were not enough.

Its secretary general, Fidel Paladino, said the Comelec should increase the honoraria and pay it promptly.

In her statement, Valisno thanked the Comelec for recently increasing by P2,000 the allowance of teachers serving as members of the Random Manual Audit Teams (RMAT).

But she said the poll body should also give additional allowances to other BEI members.

Said Valisno: "The additional compensation to the RMAT members is a good start and we thank Comelec for that, but our commissioners should not forget that it was the BEIs that really made the difference last Monday. So if the RMATs deserve a raise, why not the BEIs?"

The education secretary did not recommend any amount and said the Comelec should make the decision based on the poll body's available funds.

Basas, in an earlier statement, said he believed the Comelec had sufficient funds to increase the members' honoraria because first-time teachers were hired for this year's automated elections compared to the 800,000 hired for the last manual elections.

Valisno also assured teachers that they would receive their honoraria within 15 days from election day based on the agreement between the Comelec and the DepEd.

Gonzales leaving, but not really

SO MAY BE LEAVING THE DEPARTMENT soon, but Defense Secretary Norberto Gonzales said he would not stop "advocating" his needed reforms in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, especially in pushing for its modernization.

In the Philippine Navy's ... he envisioned ... Gonzales offered himself as a "defender and spokesman" of the AFP to ensure the importance of a stronger and better-equipped military organization.

Rear Admiral Danilo Cortez ... ends ... as head of the Navy, replacing Vice Admiral Jesus ... Cabahug, who retired.

Gonzales, concurrent National Security Adviser, stressed the importance of acquiring new weaponry and military hardware for the Navy and the other armed services.

He vowed to finish the initial requirements and negotiations for the purchase of P3 billion worth of multirole vessels for the Navy during his last 45 days as defense chief.

He said the Department of National Defense was talking with foreign governments about acquiring weapons and other military equipment through ... government to government purchase.

In this way, the DND will not be accused of forging "midnight deals" and questionable contracts with private companies and suppliers, he said.

"I hope it is not considered a midnight purchase," Gonzales lamented reporters. Marlon Ramos

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2,162.50
12 months

Canon
2,079.17
12 months

RICOH
1,832.50
6 months

SANYO
3,332.91
12 months

SHARP
583.25
12 months

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Carrier
2,693.33
6 months

SAMSUNG
5,665.83
6 months

LG
2,249.17
6 months

GREE
2,232.50
6 months

9,579.17
12 months

2,649.17
6 months

SHARP
1,124.58
12 months

SAMSUNG
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12 months

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LP pushed for Noy-Mar, party stalwarts insist

SEN. FRANCIS (KIKO) PANGILINAN AND OTHER Liberal Party campaign stalwarts were put on the defensive yesterday over criticism that divisions in the party had led to the collapse of the vice head of their vice presidential candidate, Mar Roxas.

At a press conference yesterday, Pangilinan, the LP campaign manager, was grilled about the reported party schisms that may have given the lead to "dark horse" (Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay of the rival Partnership Manang Pilipinas.

Pangilinan declared that the party had "pushed for the Aquino-Roxas tandem from the start."

"If there were people within the organization that supported the Noy-Bi (Aquino-Binay) tandem, I don't think that's a problem, not ours," said Pangilinan.

On the emergence of various Aquino-volunteer groups, not all of which supported Roxas, Pangilinan said it was natural that "supporters would come in different shapes, sizes and forms, as well as opinions."

"In every organization, there are differences of opinion," said Pangilinan, who had distanced himself from the LP over allegations that Roxas had presidential bid in favor of Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino (LP).

"It is natural that there will be a lack of unity on certain topics," Pangilinan said.

"The whole Liberal Party, as far as the official party staff is concerned, has always stood by the Aquino-Roxas tandem," said senatorial candidate Nene Acosta, who joined Pangilinan in the press conference.

Other LP stalwarts who answered questions with Pangilinan were senatorial candidates Dolly Ilarcon and Risa Hontiveros. Barsaga, who expressed their continuing support for Roxas.

With the LP vice presidential candidate still trailing Binay with more than 16 percentage points in the latest nationwide survey, some Aquino's camp, pushed Roxas to support the boy-Bi (Noynoy-Binay) tandem.

The Noy-Bi campaign was associated with Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero, who is not a member of the LP.

Pangilinan, when asked in April about a reported "war" between "Team Mar" and "Team Chiz," had said the disagreements were "minor organizational gaps" and that adjustments had been put in place to resolve it.

The panel was pressed to name supposed "traitors" or "backstabbers" in the party, terms the senatorial candidates declined to use.

"You said that, not us," Hontiveros said with a laugh.

Binay, however, called the tandem "democracy" and argued that democracy is a core principle of the Liberal Party. With a report by Ding Cervantes

'Don't thank us, just do your job'

By Alcuin Papa

DISPENSE WITH THE "THANK YOU" campaigns and render genuine public service instead.

This was the advice of environmentalists to winning candidates after "thank you" caravans and posters began sprouting in different parts of Metro Manila.

Manny Calonzo of EcoWaste Coalition said they received reports of those banners being posted along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City and Roxas Boulevard, Quiapo and Ermita area in Manila.

The group had protested the volume of campaign trash generated during the last campaign period.

Calonzo said tarpaulins were potentially toxic to humans and should be recycled.

"We have yet to totally clear the streets of multiply campaign remnants and winning politicians are now hanging 'thank you' tarps everywhere," Calonzo told the Inquirer.

Instead of putting up these tarpaulins, Calonzo said good public service is the ultimate expression of thanks that the politicians can give their constituents.

"Well-meaning public servants need not put up large thank you tarps to our garbage mess. That's not what the people expect and need. They can express their gratitude through genuine public service," he said.

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Zero votes in NE town halts prov'l canvassing

CABANATUAN CITY—THE CANVASSING OF votes in Quezon town in Nueva Ecija was suspended Friday after precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines in the town transmitted zero votes for many national and local candidates.

Former Nueva Ecija Rep. Aurelio Umali, Joson (1st District) pointed out the errors in three chartered precincts in Quezon during the municipal canvass.

As of yesterday, the municipal canvass in Quezon remained suspended, delaying the provincial canvass.

Joson, who is aiming to regain her post, said she lost 1,200 votes because of the errors she said the precincts credited her with only two votes each.

Her closest rival, former Rep. Rosario Diaz, has 153 votes due to the error, she said.

It was lawyer Dino Lubosi, secretary general of Bagong Lakas ng Nueva Ecija (Bakas), Joson's party, who alerted her to the error after he compared the printout of the results in the precinct level with those transmitted to the consolidated canvassing system.

Although the lost votes would not affect her final vote lead, it would impact on the results of the local races, particularly for candidates who run for vice governor and provincial board member, Joson said.

Diaz said the Comelec and poll automation contractor Smartmatic-TIM should be investigated for the failure of the machines.

Diaz said that more than 200 PCOS machines in Nueva Ecija malfunctioned as they failed to read the ballots. He said many machines failed to transmit results while some transmitted erroneous results.

"In my district alone, 66 machines failed to count votes when the counting started on May 10," he said. "They were assured to be functioning well when tested and tested but they failed [when] they were used," he said.

In Colombo, Fernando Corona, provincial election supervisor, said a new election affidavit in the town to continue the electronic counting and canvassing of votes.

The former Comelec election officer, Corona said, added to be implicated when 17 out of the 180 PCOS machines failed to transmit results and 26 failed to transmit the results. He said the election officer accused death threats and was accused of manipulating the election results.

Another chapter, with a report from Russell Geraldo, Inquirer Central Luzon

CDO junk shop yields ballots, flash cards, ERs

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—SOLICITORS OF the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) in Misamis Oriental have recovered election paraphernalia—ballots, election returns (ERs) and memory cards—from a junk shop here, an official of the Commission on Elections' (Comelec) announced yesterday.

Fr. Nathan Leyte, PPCRV chair in the province, said the paraphernalia for the automated elections were discovered in Barangay Kauswagan by Barangay Patrol after a tip from concerned residents.

Leyte, accompanied by members of the local media and volunteers of losing mayoral candidate Rolando Uy, said they were able to recover three units of election material—including ballots, election returns and memory cards.

Leyte said they also recovered a sealed envelope which contained flash cards and back-up memory cards for a PCOS (precinct count optical scan) machine.

It was unclear from which PCOS machine or polling precinct they came from.

Leyte said the junk shop owner told them those had been sold by scavengers, who claimed that they found the election paraphernalia in the city dump in Upper Carmen village.

Leyte said the recovered materials were now at Xavier Church in Barangay Carmen, where the PPCRV has its headquarters.

Gay Dano-Sabio, city Comelec supervisor, said her office would not understand how the election materials turned up in a dump and eventually a junk shop.

She said they began receiving election returns at 7 p.m. on May 10 and received all the ERs from 566 clustered polling precincts the following day.

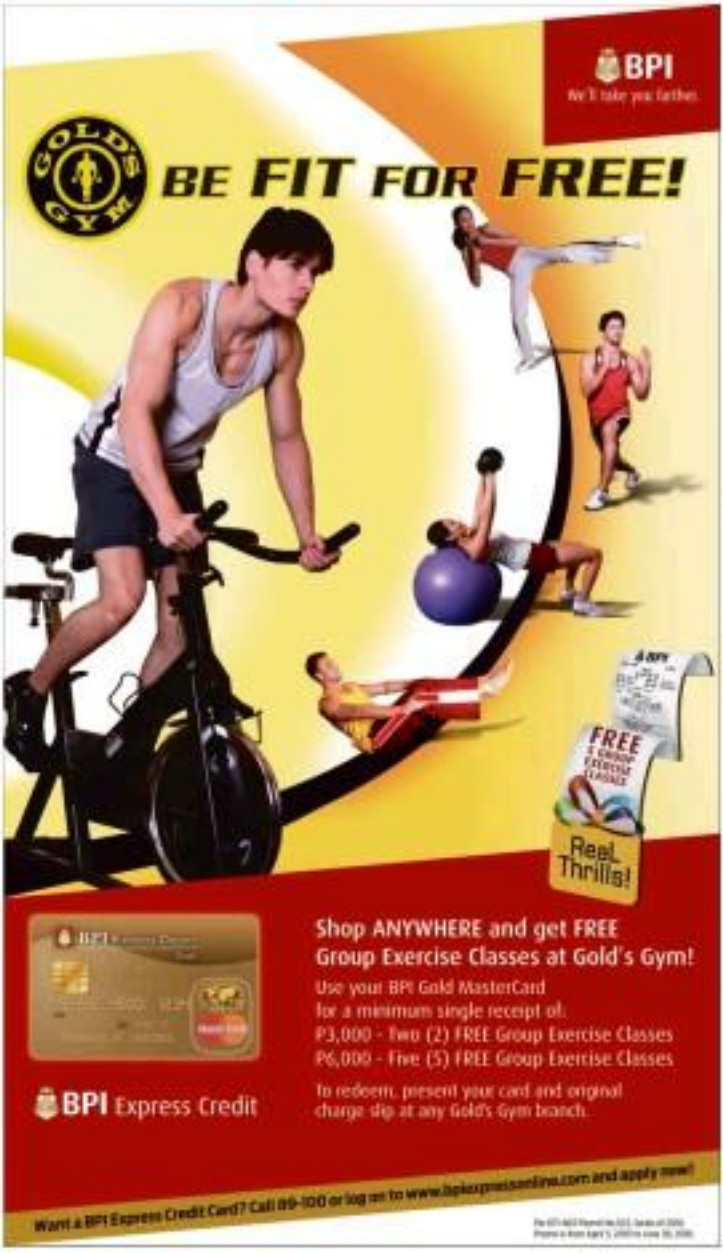
"This means all the ERs, including those now in question, had been printed and those could not have been printed unless they had been transmitted to the city board of election canvassers," she said.

Sabio said the election paraphernalia must have been stolen from the City Comelec office.

But Sabio said the incident would not affect the results of the elections in the city although she admitted that its discovery could provide grounds for protests. *—JC L. Revesa, Inquirer Mindanao*

LOVE YOUR PET, LOVE THE EARTH

Dog owners and their pets pledge to help protect the environment by sharing their prints on a "non-carbonized wall" at the Pinoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City during the recent Earth Day celebrations. The "Barkbite the Environment: Walk Your Dog" event was organized by Smart Communications Inc. in partnership with Animal Welfare Coalition and Earth Day Network Philippines Inc. (CONTRIBUTED PHOTO)



Top cop to give Aquino option to dump him

By Marlon Ramos

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ENTS in next month, the country's top policeman will pull his past.

"In a matter of principle and truth, I will submit my courtesy resignation on June 30 to allow the new Commander in Chief to choose the head of the police and military forces," Philippine National Police Director General Jesus Verzosa said yesterday.

After leading the security preparations for the May 10 automated elections—the Philippines' first—Verzosa said he would rather leave his time to the new President than be accused of being power-hungry.

He also reiterated his call to the 130,000-strong police force to respect the results of the historic computerized balloting and to remain faithful to the Constitution.

He said the elections "should heal our country and not divide us," and urged politicians and their supporters to stop bickering.

"No Filipinos, we must now put politics behind and move our great nation forward," he said.

Verzosa said he had yet to meet with the apparent next occupant of Malacañang, Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III of the Liberal Party, who is leading the returns.

"I will just wait for the formal proclamation of the new President," he said. "Our concentration now is ensuring the smooth transition of power to the next administration."

Verzosa said he did not personally know Aquino and that he had only met the latter once—during a budget hearing in the Senate last year.

The PNP chief belongs to the Philippine Military Academy's Class of 1976, of which the administration's presidential candidate, Gilbert Teodoro, is an honorary member.

Aquino is an honorary member of PMA Class 1986, and his mother, of PMA Class 1960.

Verzosa is due to bow out of service on Dec. 20, when he turns 56, the mandatory retirement age for police officers.

His possible leverage with the next President is his supposed "independence" from the outgoing administration.

He has also been credited by some sectors as the "architect" of "the most peaceful elections in modern Philippine history." Yet his timely execution of security plans such as the gun ban and the fight against private armies.

Three months ago, Verzosa was said to risk when he said he's ready to resign from the Inquirer that he would not back attempts to install President Macapagal-Arroyo as a holdover President should the elections fail.

The report on his statement merited amid speculations that Ms Arroyo would use the military to dismiss the elections and create an artificial power vacuum.

It was said to have annoyed Ms Arroyo, as indicated by her absence from the graduation rites of the PNP Academy a week after.

Ms Arroyo likewise failed to acknowledge Verzosa's presence during her speech at the Army's anniversary celebration a few days later.

But Verzosa's close association with Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, a known Arroyo ally, may hinder his reappointment as PNP chief.

In the interim, Verzosa will focus on the implementation of the PNP Integrated Transformation Program, according to Chief Supt. Leonardo Espina, the PNP spokesperson.

Espina said Verzosa might also run some police ops as part of the post-election assessment of the national police force.

"The days leading to the swearing in of the new President would be 'business as usual' for General Verzosa and the PNP," Espina said in a text message.

Do what GMA's pa did with app'ts, Noynoy urged

By Philip C. Tubeza

A SUPPORTER OF SEN. BENIGNO "Noynoy" Aquino III yesterday called on the bets runner in the presidential race to follow the lead of President Macapagal-Arroyo's father and undo her appointment of Justice Renato Corona as the next Chief Justice once he takes over Malacañang.

Former Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, who heads Aquino's Bantay Bulilit organization, said Aquino should follow the example of the late President Diosdado Macapagal who overturned the "midnight appointments" of his predecessor, President Carlos P. Garcia, throughout executive order.

Now like President Diosdado Macapagal, President Aquino by executive order can undo all the midnight appointments. The Supreme Court affirmed what the late President Macapagal did," Cruz said.

Cruz did not name the officials Diosdado Macapagal appointed who were subsequently rejected by his successor or specify the Supreme Court decisions to substantiate his claim.

"That can be done and I think that's what [Aquino] should do. That is the legal way to do it. Mid-midnight appointments through an executive order and then appoint a new chief justice," he said.

Cruz said the Supreme Court decision allowing Ms Arroyo to appoint Corona was not yet final and executory because the Philippine Bar Association had filed a second motion for reconsideration of the ruling.

"It is important that all those mid-night appointments be voided because they are illegal," Cruz said.

Cruz also named former Chief Justice Hilario Davide, saying that the latter would be remembered for "undermining the independence of the judiciary."

"History would not be kind to Puno," he said.

Cruz said that instead of standing up in "protect the independence of the Supreme Court," Davide had gone along with his colleagues in allowing the outgoing President to appoint Corona.

"I am very disappointed with Hilario because he should have taken a stand and made the Supreme Court independent. Its [court] saying [an Arroyo appointment] was illegal but now he is among those who submitted the list [of his possible successors] which he knows that the appointment was illegal," Cruz said.

Now he's saying President Aquino should not follow the lists. He should do the way to follow the lists because he himself voted [that such an appointment was illegal]. Now he flip-flopped. Instead of defending the independence of the judiciary, he's destroying it. He's undermining the judiciary," he added.

Cruz also urged Corona to decline the appointment to avoid "the independence of the judiciary."

"If you want the independence of the judiciary to continue, don't accept it because it is clear in the Constitution that it is illegal to appoint a chief justice 60 days before an election," Cruz said.

"In saying it makes just completely as an illegal appointment. Imagine, you are just starting out as chief justice and you begin with an illegal act. If you have some sense, you should spurn the Supreme Court from the touch of illegality to keep its independence," he added.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday May 18, 2010
Our Lord's Ascension

1st Reading: Acts 1:1-11

In the first part of my work, Theophilus, I wrote of all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he ascended to heaven.

But first he had last acted through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his passion, he presented himself to them, giving many signs that he was alive, over a period of forty days he appeared to them and taught them what concerning the Kingdom of God. Once when he had been eating with them, he told them, "Do not leave Jerusalem but wait for the fulfillment of the Father's promise about which I have spoken to you. John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit within a few days."

When they had come together, they asked him, "Is it now that you will restore the Kingdom of Israel?" And he answered, "It is not for you to know the time and the steps that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, even to the ends of the earth."

After Jesus said this, he was taken up before their eyes and a cloud hid him from their sight. While they were still looking up to heaven as he went, suddenly, two men dressed in white stood beside them and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking up at the sky? This Jesus who has been taken from you into heaven, will return in the same way as you have seen him go there."

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11

Christ did not enter some sanctuary made by human hands, a copy of the true one, but heaven itself. He is now in the presence of God on our behalf. He had not to offer himself many times, as the High Priest does: he who now enters every year, because the blood is not his own. Otherwise he would have suffered many times since the foundation of the world. But no, he manifested himself only now at the end of the ages, to take away sin by sacrifice, and, as it remains the only once and afterwards are judged, so the same was Christ sacrificed himself once to take away the sins of the multitude. There will be no further question of sin when he comes again to save those waiting for him.

So, my friends, we are assured of entering the Sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, who opened for us this new and living way passing through the veil of his flesh. We have a great priest set over the house of God, let us approach with a sincere heart, with full faith, inwardly cleansed from a bad conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Let us hold fast to our hope without wavering, because he who promised is faithful.

Gospel: Lk 24:46-53

Jesus said to the eleven, "You see what was written: the Messiah had to suffer and on the third day rise from the dead. Then repentance and forgiveness in his name would be proclaimed to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are shall be witnesses to this. And this is why I will send you what my Father promised. So remain in the city until you are invested with power from above."

Jesus led them outside as far as Bethany, then he lifted up his hands and blessed them, and as he blessed them, he withdrew from and was taken to heaven. They worshiped him. Then returned to Jerusalem full of joy and were continually in the Temple praising God.

Commentary

"The message of repentance and forgiveness of sins must be preached to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem."

Jesus wants us to know that it is not perfection that we must be about.

What is really important are our efforts to do better, always forgiving those sins God's love and forgiveness.

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10009	GLYCERIN, DENATURED	KG	1,150,000.00
10018	ETHYLHEXYL METHOXYCINNAMATE	KG	98,400.00
10047	NIACINAMIDE	KG	30,000.00
10071	METHYL	KG	720,000.00
10082	HYDROXIDE	KG	31,500.00
10023	SODIUM LACTATE	KG	19,500.00
10001	GLYCERYL STEARATE, SELF EMULSIFYING STEARATE	KG	15,000.00
10084	METHANE SULFONATE	KG	1,100.00
10002	DIMETHICONE / DIMETICONE	KG	21,600.00
10001	BUTYLOCTANOL	KG	4,540.00
10008	METHYLPROPANEDIOL	KG	16,500.00
10038	DIPROPYLENE GLYCOL DIBENZOATE	KG	2,500.00
10075	ETHYLHEXYL SALICYLATE	KG	4,300.00
10084	MANNITOL/SORBITOL DIMETHICONE	KG	12,500.00
10018	TITANIUM DIOXIDE (U.S/NANO) HYDROXIDE, DIMETHICONE/METICONE COPOLYMER	KG	1,080.00
10003	CARBOMER	KG	3,120.00
10038	TETRASODIUM	KG	1,120.00
10042	DIETHYLHEXYLOCTONE	KG	41,035.00
10112	PDF	KG	4,800.00
10012	TRIHYDRATE - SODIUM	KG	34,000.00

Packaging Material	Material Code	Total Qty. pcs	Specifications
Sticker Label	06-04-01-75-R	500,000	PP Clear TC 50, Letter Press Printing w/ Varnish, 6 color print, Dimension: 37.15mm x 71mm x 125µ [50/4 Thickness]
	06-04-02-75-R	700,000	PP Clear TC 50, Letter Press Printing w/ Varnish, 6 color print, Dimension: 37.15mm x 75mm x 125µ [50/4 Thickness]
	06-04-03-75-R	200,000	PP Clear TC 50, Letter Press Printing w/ Varnish, 6 color print, Dimension: 37.15mm x 77mm x 125µ [50/4 Thickness]
	06-04-01-115-R	700,000	PP Clear TC 50, Letter Press Printing w/ Varnish, 6 color print, Dimension: 48.15mm x 94mm x 125µ [50/4 Thickness]
	06-04-03-130-R	600,000	PP Clear TC 50, Letter Press Printing w/ Varnish, 6 color print, Dimension: 48.15mm x 94mm x 125µ [50/4 Thickness]
	06-04-01-115-R	400,000	PP Clear TC 50, Letter Press Printing w/ Varnish, 6 color print, Dimension: 48.15mm x 94mm x 125µ [50/4 Thickness]
	01-02-01-CYLE	1,300,000	PP Clear TC 50 BP 37, Flexo print w/ Varnish, 6 color print, Dimension: 43mm x 72.95mm x 50µ [50/4 Thickness]
	01-02-01-135-R	1,000,000	PP Clear TC 50 BP 37, Flexo print w/ Varnish, 6 color print, Dimension: 48.45mm x 90.05mm x 50µ [50/4 Thickness]
	02-02-00-75-R	1,600,000	Front PP Clear TC 50 BP 37, Black PP White TC 60 BP 37, Flexo print w/ Varnish, 6 color prints + SHR, Dimension: 40.15mm x 75.1mm x 50µ [40/4 Thickness]
	02-02-00-130-R	800,000	Front PP Clear TC 50 BP 37, Black PP White TC 60 BP 37, Flexo print w/ Varnish, 6 color prints + SHR, Dimension: 50.05mm x 91mm x 50µ [40/4 Thickness]
	01-03-00-13-R	700,000	PP White 1C6, Letter Press w/ UV Varnish, flexo print + SHR, Dimension: 13mm x 56µ [Diameter x Thickness]
	01-04-00-13-R	1,200,000	PP White 1C6, Letter Press w/ UV Varnish, flexo print + SHR, Dimension: 13mm x 56µ [Diameter x Thickness]
	01-03-00-05-R	600,000	PP White 1C6, Letter Press w/ UV Varnish, flexo print + SHR, Dimension: 31mm x 56µ [Diameter x Thickness]
	01-04-00-05-R	1,000,000	PP White 1C6, Letter Press w/ UV Varnish, flexo print + SHR, Dimension: 31mm x 56µ [Diameter x Thickness]
Shrink Label	06-01-01-100-R	300,000	PVC Film, 1 color print, Formed Dimension: 98mm x 100mm x 40µ [50/4 T]
	06-01-02-100-R	700,000	PVC Film, 6 color print, Formed Dimension: 92mm x 100mm x 40µ [50/4 T]
	06-01-01-200-R	200,000	PVC Film, 1 color print, Formed Dimension: 40mm x 196mm x 40µ [50/4 T]
	06-01-02-200-R	400,000	PVC Film, 1 color print, Formed Dimension: 40mm x 196mm x 40µ [50/4 T]
	06-01-01-100-R	300,000	PVC Film, 1 color print, Formed Dimension: 60mm x 196mm x 40µ [50/4 T]
	06-01-02-100-R	900,000	PVC Film, 6 color print, Formed Dimension: 60mm x 196mm x 40µ [50/4 T]
	11-05-00-45-R	500,000	PVC Film, 6 color print, Formed Dimension: 64mm x 270mm x 40µ [50/4 T]
	01-05-00-45-R	600,000	PVC Film, 6 color print, Formed Dimension: 72mm x 138mm x 40µ [50/4 T]
	02-01-01-100-R	600,000	PVC Film, 1 color print, Formed Dimension: 98mm x 140mm x 40µ [50/4 T]
	02-01-02-100-R	900,000	PVC Film, 6 color print, Formed Dimension: 98mm x 140mm x 40µ [50/4 T]
	02-01-03-100-R	500,000	PVC Film, 10 color print, Formed Dimension: 98mm x 140mm x 40µ [50/4 T]
	03-01-04-100-R	200,000	PVC Film, 10 color print, Formed Dimension: 72mm x 138mm x 40µ [50/4 T]
	03-01-05-100-R	400,000	PVC Film, 1 color print, Formed Dimension: 72mm x 138mm x 40µ [50/4 T]
	03-01-02-100-R	1,300,000	PVC Film, 1 color print, Formed Dimension: 72mm x 138mm x 40µ [50/4 T]
	03-01-01-100-R	900,000	PVC Film, 1 color print, Formed Dimension: 72mm x 138mm x 40µ [50/4 T]
	03-01-01-100-R	600,000	PVC Film, 1 color print, Formed Dimension: 72mm x 138mm x 40µ [50/4 T]
	03-01-02-200-R	600,000	PVC Film, 1 color print, Formed Dimension: 82mm x 138mm x 40µ [50/4 T]
	03-01-03-100-R	400,000	PVC Film, 10 color print, Formed Dimension: 72mm x 138mm x 40µ [50/4 T]
	03-01-01-200-R	400,000	PVC Film, 1 color print, Formed Dimension: 82mm x 138mm x 40µ [50/4 T]
	03-01-01-20-R	600,000	PVC Film, 1 color print, Formed Dimension: 52mm x 112mm x 35µ [W/T]
	03-01-02-20-R	600,000	PVC Film, 6 color print, Formed Dimension: 52mm x 112mm x 35µ [W/T]
	03-01-03-20-R	400,000	PVC Film, 10 color print, Formed Dimension: 52mm x 112mm x 35µ [W/T]
	03-01-01-30-R	200,000	PVC Film, 1 color print, Folded Dimension: 60mm x 180mm x 40µ [W/T]
	03-01-03-30-R	400,000	PVC Film, 10 color print, Folded Dimension: 60mm x 180mm x 40µ [W/T]
	03-01-01-50-R	1,100,000	PVC Film, 1 color print, Folded Dimension: 60mm x 86mm x 40µ [W/T]
	03-01-02-50-R	300,000	PVC Film, 6 color print, Folded Dimension: 60mm x 86mm x 40µ [W/T]
	03-01-01-30-R	300,000	PVC Film, 1 color print, Folded Dimension: 60mm x 86mm x 40µ [W/T]
	03-01-02-200-R	400,000	PVC Film, 1 color print, Folded Dimension: 132mm x 210mm x 40µ [W/T]
	03-01-01-50-R	500,000	PVC Film, 1 color print, Folded Dimension: 138mm x 210mm x 40µ [W/T]
Tube with Cap	01-01-05-23-R	400,000	TUBE, Monolayer LDPE, Dia 35mm, length 85mm, Colored opaque Eg. CAP: Flip top PP, Dia 35mm, Ht 22.15mm NK 4.40g
	01-06-00-30-R	400,000	TUBE, Monolayer LDPE, Dia 35mm, length 85mm, Colored opaque Eg. CAP: Flip top PP, Dia 35mm, Ht 22.15mm NK 4.40g
	02-04-00-30-R	300,000	TUBE, Round 3 layers w/ EVOH, Dia 35mm, tube length 135mm, opaque, w/ UNP, Double wall PP, Ht 50, Dia 35mm, N.W 30mm
	01-05-01-20-R	600,000	TUBE, OVAL, 4 SIDED 3 layers w/ EVOH, Dia 40mm, tube length 85mm, opaque, w/ UNP, Double wall PP, Ht 50, Tube & cap with glitter
	01-10-01-05-R	100,000	TUBE, CD-ED 3 layers w/ EVOH, Dia 40mm, tube length 81mm glittered opaque, CAP: Oval glittered w/ silver stamping lining, Roundpegs 2mm, 38mm & 24mm & 20mm, ht 4.90g
	04-01-01-120-R	600,000	TUBE, 3B PE Pure Aluminum Collapsible Tube w/ membrane, Lacquer Coating & Lithography Printing, 1 color print, Dia 37.6mm, tube length 135mm, CAP: Colored HDPE cap with pierce, ht 12g, Internal coating: White Polyester enamel, Kolsek PUR Tube enamel A 103-4623-99-EMARA-AF1001-03, Internal Coating: Gold epoxy Phenolic lacquer, KOLACR J 3000 Gold, HOBA S, 039-1000-33, Sealing compound: Sealant lacquer, KOLACR CO 7535 gold
Dispenser Box	03-01-01-75-R	30,000	Foldcote 18, offset printing with 8pcs UV Lamination, DMPK, 170mm L 86mm x 76mm (W) 245mm x 266mm (HE)
	03-01-02-02-R	20,000	Foldcote 18, offset printing with 8pcs UV Lamination, DMPK + 1 special Color, 86mm x 86mm x 86mm (D), 220mm x 246mm (H)
	03-01-03-02-R	40,000	Foldcote 18, offset printing with 8pcs UV Lamination, DMPK + 1 special Color, 86mm x 86mm x 86mm (D), 220mm x 246mm (H)
	03-01-04-23-R	20,000	Foldcote 18, offset printing with 8pcs UV Lamination, DMPK + 1 special Color, 86mm x 86mm x 86mm (D), 220mm x 246mm (H)
	03-01-01-30-R	60,000	Foldcote 18, offset printing with 8pcs UV Lamination, DMPK, Tolerance +/-10 mm x 108mm (D), 302mm x 286mm (H)
	03-01-02-30-R	20,000	Foldcote 18, offset printing with 8pcs UV Lamination, DMPK + 1 special Color, 147mm x 110mm x 108mm (D), 346mm x 342mm (H)
	03-01-03-30-R	30,000	Foldcote 18, offset printing with 8pcs UV Lamination, DMPK + 1 special Color, 147mm x 110mm x 108mm (D), 346mm x 342mm (H)
	03-01-04-30-R	20,000	Foldcote 18, offset printing with 8pcs UV Lamination, DMPK + 1 special Color, 147mm x 110mm x 108mm (D), 346mm x 342mm (H)

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Bid document must be emailed to splash-bidder@splashcorp.com using the following format in EXCEL FILE

Packaging Material	Material Codes	Quantity	Bid Price
Sticker Label	01-04-00-13-R	1,200,000	
Shrink Label	02-01-02-100-R	1,300,000	
Tube with Cap	04-01-01-120-R	600,000	

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Look, feel, live beauty... splash corporation

GOODBYE TO ALL THAT Vesta / What had looked like a jungle of campaign materials in Barangay Pinyahan in Quezon City is actually waiting shed after all the clutter was cleared. (Related story on Page A4) (PHOTOGRAPHER)

Fulfill promises, Church reminds election winners

By Rolando L. Alinio

CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADERS yesterday called on the winning candidates in the May 10 elections to fulfill the promises they made to the electorate.

Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo said the new batch of leaders should put priority on instilling transparency in government, solving poverty, eradicating graft and corruption, and ending human rights abuses.

"I really believe that poverty in our country is caused by corruption in the government... by our corrupt leaders," Lagdameo, former head of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, said.

"I am hoping that they will keep their promises to the people [made] at the time they were still campaigning," he said.

Ozamiz Bishop Homero Dagohoy advised Lagdameo's call, saying the new administration should focus on eliminating corruption in the bureaucracy.

He said many cases of corruption in government had been exposed and investigated, only to end up forgotten.

"There's no closure," he said. "Despite the red flags against corruption, still candidates said there will be justice and restitution."

The administration may be principally diverted at overcoming presidential candidate Sen. Benigno Aquino III, who ran his campaign on the promise to end corruption in government, Agusan East Bishop Juan Edgardo Pueblos quipped.

Aquino's campaign slogan, "Kung walang kurap, walang mahirap" (If there's no corruption, there's no poverty), which served as the hallmark of his candidacy.

Avoid Bangkok, Pinoys warned

By Cynthia D. Rubino

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (DFA) reissued its travel advisory to Bangkok, Thailand, Saturday in view of the escalating turbulence of violence there.

"The department has strongly advised Filipinos to postpone non-essential travel to Thailand, particularly the capital city Bangkok," the advisory said.

"Filipinos who are already in Thailand are advised to avoid all areas where antigovernment rallyists continue to congregate and stage their protests," it added.

At least 19 people were killed and 143, including security personnel, injured in clashes between antigovernment protesters and security forces in the Thai capital Friday, online reports said.

The latest violence erupted after the Center for Resolution of Emergency Situation (CRES) announced that it would keep up the pressure on the "red shirt" protesters to end their rally.

Emergency rule

The protests in the Thai capital began on March 12 with the Redsupremacy International in central Bangkok as the main rally site.

Bangkok has been under emergency battles April 7 when the protest took an aggressive turn when they invaded the parliament building.

LIBRE Classifieds
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Binay still leads; LP says don't count Mar out

From page A1

documents because it is not the dominant minority party.

"Our rough computation based on the municipal certificates of canvass shows [a bona fide lead of] plus or minus 200,000 [votes] unilaterally," Cruz said in a press conference at the Bahay Ugnayan-Bistro in Cubao, Quezon City.

He said the LP would present tomorrow 60 to 90 provincial COCs to show what is claimed was the real score in the vice presidential race.

Congress will determine the official winners in the presidential and vice presidential race based on a total 107 provincial COCs. It is to start tallying the votes on May 24, a week earlier than originally scheduled.

"Our target is June 6," Reuters quoted Speaker Prospero Nograles as saying, referring to when the President and Vice President would be officially named.

'Official and correct data'

LP campaign manager Florencio "Butch" Abad said the party had gathered 70 provincial COCs as of yesterday and these showed Binay leading Roxas by 965,467 votes.

However, he said, the LP expected this lead to drop and eventually settle at "plus or minus 200,000."

"These are based on the COCs so we are say that they are official and the correct data, unlike other opposition parties who rely on secondary sources," Abad said.

"These being sent to the Commission on Elections have no vetting. They just send and send. These ones were vetted because they come from the provincial COC canvassing committees. These have been vetted," he said.

To highlight Senate' supposed fraud, Abad said municipal COCs from the vote-rich provinces of Pangasinan and Pampanga showed the LP vice presidential candidate leading Binay by 276,000 votes.

In Pampanga, Roxas received a total of 413,614 votes, or 47.02 percent of the total votes cast, while Binay got 210,357 votes, or 23.18 percent. Nacionalista Party vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda had 128,368 votes, or 14.85 percent.

In Pangasinan, Roxas got a total of 257,363 votes or 42.84 percent of the total votes cast, while Binay got 161,055 votes or 26.81 percent.

'Tainted and inaccurate'

"These are accurate figures because these came from the election returns and the certificates of canvass that the Liberal Party, in the dominant majority party, [received] to get," Abad said, adding:

"The so-called United Opposition and the Partema ng Masang Pilipino do not have access to these documents.

"The figures that Binay is showing are either fabrications or, at best, tainted and inaccurate because of."

Abad also reiterated that these could still make it because he was also leading in Western and Central Visayas by 2.16 million votes.

"These figures are the latest... They are just from two provinces. We expect to get higher margins in our strongholds," Abad said.

He said 30 percent of 76,000 precinct count optical scan machines had yet to transmit their results to the Comelec in Manila.

"Assuming a conservative estimate of 500 votes per machine and a turnout of 75 percent, that's three to four million votes not yet accounted for. That's how big the number of votes that are still to be counted and reported to the public. Let us allow the process to take its due course," Abad said.

PDP-LBV count

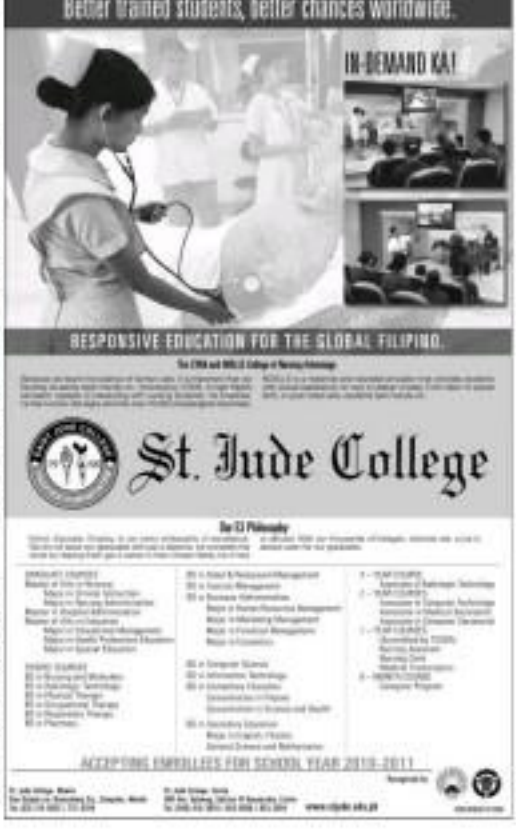
Here are the PDP-LBV figures:

For President: Aquino, 21,839,569 votes; Gordon, 6,757,092; the NPC's Manuel Villar, 5,832,237; Lakas-Kampi-CMD's Gilbert Teodoro, 3,674,286; Bangon Pilipinas' Eddie Villanueva, 1,226,128; Bagumbayan's Richard Gordon, 467,681; independent candidates Jamby Madrigal, 48,998 and 42,187, respectively; and Ang Kapatiran Party's JC de los Reyes, 40,865.

For Vice President: Binay, 13,489,398 votes; Roxas, 12,670,866;

the NPC's Loren Legarda, 2,907,712; Superthurian's Bayani Fernando, 957,895; Lakas-Kampi-CMD's Edu Manzano, 706,850;

Bangon Pilipinas' Nicholas Perez, 608,749; Kilusang Bagong Lipunan's Jejomar Binay, 57,891; and Ang Kapatiran Party's Dominador Chipeco, 47,371.



'People's President' embraces destiny, not just legacy

From page A1

telling friends over dinner last Saturday, the eve of the elections, an edgy Cha wanted to continue to live in his family's Times Street residence, and not in Malacañang, if he should win.

A close friend then suggested, not serenely kidding: "Sir, how about if we do an exact copy of your bedroom, so you'll feel at home?"

Embracing destiny

"Hay, naremdan ... ," Aquino muttered under his breath. He obviously didn't care to pursue the topic, knowing that he was in for more ribbing.

The senator seemed at peace with himself that night, less than 48 hours before the polling was to open. He was calm, even teasing to be irked or worried.

"A man who has totally embraced his destiny, not just his parents' legacy" is how one volunteer, who was with the campaign since it started, puts it.

"I believe I've done everything I can," he said, gulping down his nth soft drink of the day.

"Now, leave some to God. I think it was Cardinal Sin who said that once," he said.

He had just finished a snooze earlier and rallies in Tarlac's second district and Tarlac City, by now, no sight-lame motorcade no longer left him tired or fatigued.

And now, with the campaign at an end, he just wanted to have a good Chinese dinner with his staff, a few close friends and friends. He was looking forward to a plate of sweet-sour pork.

A bonus from God

Although no one in the table said it, everyone knew how excited the nation's wise Aquino was at a crossroads. He had just ended a grueling campaign. The last of the presidential candidates to get started on his campaign, he worked at least three provinces a day, losing perhaps 15 pounds in the process, and with hands bruised from pressing the flesh.

Amid the misgivings of his security people who were apprehensive of the dark, Aquino insisted on riding motorcade in Tarlac City at 7 p.m. and went onstage to address the huge crowd that had been waiting for him for hours.

And now he stands at the threshold of being proclaimed the 15th President of the Philippines.

For now, however, he'd rather joke and banter, recalling the miracle that was his campaign.

Does he think he'll win, we asked. "It's done," he said.

"That's not [so] much [to be] hoping [among] ... what I mean is, if our purpose was to bring our people together to express the need for change, we've done it. If I win the presidency, that's just a bonus from God. But I'm prepared for whatever he will do more, to deliver on a promise," he said.

Not about himself

He wasn't just trying to be philosophical or spiritual, he was just being his true self, a guy who's not pressure-packed with life

YELLOW FEVER: Residents of Camiros, Tarlac, jostle for position ... and flick is not even around. An shaker hands with Mayway Aquino as the presidential candidate wound up his campaign with a motorcade from Capas to Concepcion, Tarlac, on the last day of the campaign period on May 8. AP PHOTO/BULLIT MARQUEZ

REFLECTIONS ON A GOLDEN LEGACY: With the road via fields of Tarlac in the background, Mayway Aquino takes a break, sits on a stool in homespun earlier during the final stretch of his campaign in Tarlac. AP PHOTO/BULLIT MARQUEZ

will at all.

The guy who didn't financially seek power for himself will be the President of the (Philippines one) day now. Don't you see the irony of your life? we pressed on. He left my hand to and him between his two cute hands as he leaned back for 20 years—"since 1986, to be exact," Mayway calculated—we're also headed that life during those decades.

He slowly looked at us, half-dropped and proceeded to talk about other things. Obviously, to him, even his date with destiny was still not about himself.

No wonder he seemed calm. He wasn't thinking of himself, not even about what could be his last weekend as a private person, no matter that the marketing campaign didn't spare anything of his person, certainly not his always-sleepy pale.

On that Saturday in Tarlac, the last day of the campaign, children could be seen racing alongside the motorcade and screaming the narrow road in Victoria. People young and old, men and women, built run on both sides of the track that he was riding as it inched along. They were trying out his name. "Noynoy! Noynoy!"

Eye contact with crowd

Amazingly, Noynoy remained buoyant with the crowd as his motorcade moved, from his perch on the truck about 2 meters from the ground. From time to time, he would shout at the children, waving flesh to stay away from the moving truck but they just fascinated. Or he would tell more aggressive ones to stop snatching the bullet fire from the elderly who were too late enough at catching the armbands being thrown at the crowds. He actually kept eye contact with the people even in his truck was in motion.

At one point, he pointed at a husky bandbound boy taking his second walk, angled him out, and shouted: "Ikbali mga magkaiba! ... Hoy! ... Iwin mandun ito!" (This is not a game. Don't, you might hurt yourself!)

The boy beamed on his mother, his jaw dropped, and he turned at Aquino. He obviously couldn't believe that, Aquino, the object of the crowd's frenzy, had spared him.

Assured by the sight of the motorcade, Aquino's cousin, Representative Edcel Lagman, said in the senator: "I think that boy will grow up a good boy because he has just been admonished by the President (to be) of the Philippines. He'll always remember this day."

Indeed, on this last day of the campaign, the crowd was no longer shouting "Cory!" or "Kris!"—the two authentic celebrities in the family who are believed to be propelling his campaign. They were now shouting, "Noynoy!" or "Pnoy!"

He's taking it

His candidacy was triggered by the people's clamor following the death of his mother, the icon of democracy and revered for

From page A1

her President Corazon Aquino. We are clickers. Isaac finally caught a glimpse of how that "people power" candidate is now at home with the people, and the media fans. He doesn't have to fake it.

From where we stood behind him on the truck, we could look down at the faces of the people, a moving mosaic of raw emotion, their eyes staring up with hope. For it was hope that was now on the morning on salaam, but hope that their lives would somehow be better.

"This raw emotion a lot better than what members could share," said Chris Fu, a volunteer who left his family and cleaning and business in Cebu to join the campaign, referring to candidate preference surveys, as he looked at the crowd backdropped by ramshackle homes. "When Aquino first ran for a House seat in the 1990s, he visited every one of these homes."

He's taking it

His candidacy was triggered by the people's clamor following the death of his mother, the icon of democracy and revered for

From page A1

Erap focuses on 'hocus PCOS,' an 'electronic Garci' system

The "Hello Garci" scandal refers to the wiretapped telephone conversations between Virgilio Garcillano, then a Comelec (Commission on Elections) commissioner, and President Macapagal-Arroyo allegedly giving her a total of 1 million votes over the last nine Fernando Poe Jr., her nearest rival, during the 2004 presidential election.

Former Sen. Ernesto Maceda, the campaign manager of Estrada's Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), said the fraud was so widespread, if election results were to be reviewed, even the third place in the presidential race, Sen. Manuel Villar, would have a chance of coming out on top.

Preprogrammed

Maceda said he received reports of "agents" approaching candidates before the elections, offering electoral victories in preprogrammed compact flash cards and memory cards in exchange for fees of as much as P50 million.

Lawyer George Garcia, Estrada's election legal counsel, also said he had clients among the candidates who asked him if they should accept the offer of a preprogrammed victory in exchange for a large sum of money.

Garcia compared the digital manipulations to what happened in the movie "Man of the Year" which starred Hollywood actor Robin Williams.

In the movie, William played a comedian who runs for president, and a computerized voting machine malfunction gets him elected.

'Logistically improbable'

"The purpose of generating a more report [at the start of the voting process] is to ensure that there is no vote data inside the machine," Garcia said.

"The command is different. We are all familiar with the 'Hello' card. The card has a command ... For instance, after five votes counted, you add one vote in this candidate," he added.

Garcia indicated that the replacement of thousands of compact flash cards after every failed election process was logistically improbable.

Signs of preprogramming?

"Were the 76,000 flash cards really returned and recollected, and to insure the so-called substitutes already prepared and ready for delivery to the short period of three days?" Garcia said.

"And if there was really nothing irregular going on, why is it that the Comelec did not allow the presence of media and party watchers during the recollection (of the flash cards)?" he added.

Maceda said reports from Manila showed candidate Lito Atienza showing election scenes that were distant, not May 10, but April 28, May 4 and May 5, pointed to signs of "preprogramming."

Maceda also said the random manual counts should be done faster now that reports of discrepancies in election results were beginning to surface.

"The slow pace is the delivery of the results of the random manual counts is highly suspicious. It is almost as if they are hiding something," he added.

Like child's play

PMP senatorial candidate Sen. Francisco Tatad said the Comelec could have prevented election fraud if it had retained the security features that would have allowed voters to verify whether their actual votes had been recorded by the PCOS machines.

He said he was consulting his lawyers on the possibility of filing a "countermand action" that would nullify the results of the recent elections. He said he was also preparing an impeachment complaint against the Election commissioners.

"The hocus PCOS makes the Garci scandal look like child's play," Tatad said in a news conference at the PMP headquarters in the Mandaluyong City.

He questioned the following acts: The disabling of the built-in alternate detection capability of the PCOS that was meant to prevent the use of ballots without the proper UV mark; the deactivation of the "add" function that allowed the voter to use that the machine was reading the vote right; and the Comelec's general instruction to the boards of election inspectors (EIE) not to digitally sign the data to be transmitted from the PCOS machines.

Don't destroy flash cards

"The digital signature procedure used by Smartmatic for the inspectors was, according to the Comelec, already executed immediately after the machines failed the function of the digital signature generation, transmission and confirmation into the hands of one entity, Smartmatic, without any independent board," Tatad said.

Maceda also called on the Comelec to stop destroying the replaced flash cards when the PCOS machines failed in the testing and sealing procedures one week before the elections.

He said the Comelec could be considered "principal suspect" in electoral fraud if they continued to do so.

Garcia said their camp would have the flash cards examined during the canvassing in Congress.

Ampatuans seek judge's inhibition a 4th time

A LAWYER FOR THE AMPATUAN CLAN HAS asked a Quezon City judge for the fourth time to inhibit herself from the massacre case family members are facing in connection with the Maguindanao massacre which left 57 people dead last year.

In a fourth motion lodged in QC Regional Trial Court Branch 221, presided over by Judge Jocelyn Dolorfino, lawyer Sixto Brillo Jr. asked that Reyes drop the multiple murder case and have it raffled by the executive judge.

Sinsuat is one of the lawyers of Andal Ampatuan Jr., the primary accused in the case, and his father Andal Ampatuan Sr., the patriarch of the clan from Maguindanao province.

The defense lawyers said Reyes did not grab the facts of the case when she ordered the indictments of the 196 accused, including the Ampatuans, for the murders that occurred on Nov. 23, 2009.

The motion to inhibit pointed out that it was unfair for the judge to have received personally documented the existence of probable cause before admitting the amended information indicting Andal Jr. et al.

Fifty-seven people, including family members of ex-Ampatuan town mayor Andal Ampatuan, were killed by some 100 armed men allegedly led by Andal Jr. purportedly on ambush of Andal Sr.

"It is clear that the inability of the presiding judge to deal with the facts indicates all the more difficult for the accused to trust her integrity, competence and efficiency," the lawyer said.

Reyes denied the defense's first motion for her to inhibit, while the other motions are pending resolution.

In its fourth recusation, the defense said several of the accused were included in the amended information even if they were not mentioned in the affidavits of the witnesses that were submitted to the Department of Justice.

Jaila M. Azurin

MANTINGLUPA FIRE
Firefighters douse remnants of a fire that roared through a poor community in Barangay Cupang, Muntinlupa City, Saturday rendering some 4,000 families homeless. The thick black smoke from the blaze caused traffic to come to a standstill for four hours on the nearby South Luzon Expressway. (Story on Page A14.) ALEX NINO

Abu killed, 14 others nabbed

ONE MEMBER OF THE ABU SAYYAF WAS killed while 14 others were captured in a raid in Basilan Saturday, the military said.

The attack on their hideout was launched by the operatives, who quickly surrendered after a fire fight killed one of them, regional military chief Lt. Gen. Jose Ibrado said.

"This is a very successful, significant operation. The enemy was caught by surprise," said Dabalen who credited good intelligence work for the raid.

Those arrested were part of an Abu Sayyaf unit that launched a daring attack on Basilan's capital city of Isabela in April that left 15 dead, he said.

"They are now under interrogation and we believe they were part of the group that perpetrated that incident," he said.

"Saturday's raid was in a place where they withdrew to after the April 11 attack," he added.

Dabalen said patrol operations launched after the first attack had so far left 15 Abu Sayyaf members dead, although the main leaders remained at large.

Also recovered from Saturday's raid were assorted high powered firearms, including grenade launchers and mortars, Dabalen said. AFP

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3 Filipino seamen free after 5 mos

THREE FILIPINOS, ALONG WITH 23 OTHER seafarers on the MV St. James Park, were released unharmed on Thursday after nearly five months in captivity following negotiations by their employer with the Somali pirates who seized them, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday.

Quoting a report from the Philippine Embassy in Nairobi, the DFA Officer-of-the-Day (Concurrency for Migrant Workers Affairs (OUMWA) said a ransom was paid to the seafarers' manning agency and the vessel owner to arrange their repatriation.

The British-flagged chemical tanker was hijacked by Somali pirates in the Gulf of Aden on Dec. 20, 2009. It was loaded in Pattaya, Thailand, from Yarmouth, Spain, when it was seized. Besides the three Filipinos, on board were six Indians, five Bulgarians, three Russians, three Turks, two Romanians, two Ukrainians, one Georgian and one Polish citizen. The vessel is now headed for Oman.

A Filipino seafarer on the Romania-flagged MV Talia was also released from captivity last Tuesday. The cargo ship was hijacked by Somali pirates off the coast of Oman on March 23. Also on board were 23 sri Lankans and one Syrian.

Meanwhile, a Taiwanese fishing vessel, with three Filipino crew on board, was hijacked by Somali pirates northeast of the Seychelles March 09 May 8, the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (Meco) reported Wednesday.

The Filipinos on the Tai Yuan 227 were identified to Joseph A. Tejano, Dario S. Gesbi and Leovic Bayoh. Samol on information received by the Taiwan foreign ministry and relayed to Meco resident representative Antonio Basilio. Cynthia D. Balloon

B.V. Basilio; 83

BERNARDO VASILIO SY (CHUCHIPON), Tsinke, died on May 14 at the age of 83.

Basilio was vice president and general manager of Bluebird and general manager of Sen-sit, GA Machineries, Facilities Inc. and Graceland Milk.

He is survived by his wife Dominoche; children Antonio, Kristine Rosalie, Bernardo Jr., Cesar, Jacqueline and Alvin and their spouses, and his grandchildren. He was preceded in death by daughter Ma. Leticia.

His remains lie at Christ the King Parish, Greenwoodtown, Quezon City. Cremation will be at 11 a.m. on May 17 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina, following the 8:30 a.m. Mass at Christ the King.

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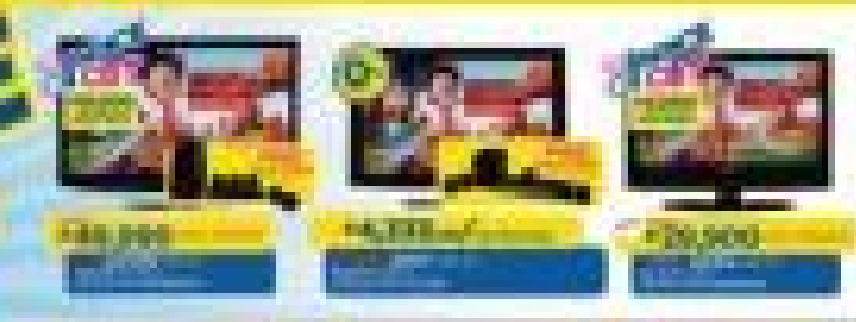

INQUIRER Vol. 25 No. 137

OPINION

Judicial quarantine

EDITORIAL

WHILE IT WILL REQUIRE A CONGRESSIONAL resolution for the country to start referring to Sen. Benigno Aquino III as the president-elect, the country as a whole has accepted that he has been conferred the most remarkable mandate since the present Constitution's ratification in 1987. The conferment of this mandate was such a long-anticipated event that when it became clear the people had spoken, it sparked an epidemic of unmannerliness among many (though not all) of Aquino's major opponents in the presidential race.

Instead of allowing the country to savor the end of the long crisis of legitimacy that began—and deepened—from 2001-2005, the present administration chose to pursue its strategy of manufacturing crises so as to maximize its opportunities for aggrandizing power. The latest manifestation of this pathological approach to political power is President Macapagal-Arroyo's maneuvering to appoint the next chief justice.

We should never forget that "disempowering" the president from making appointments as the eve of elections, and from election day until he or she turns over the reins of government to a duly-elected successor, is a sensible democratic principle. We should never forget that it is a principle that has been supported for the most part by the framers of the present Constitution. It is a principle of democratic self-control and executive responsibility—a legacy of the President's own father, and respected on the whole by every successor of Diosdado Macapagal until his own daughter reached the terminal stage of her own presidency. And we should never forget that the only reason this wholesome and responsible principle has been abandoned is that President Arroyo has decided it changed and found obliging accomplices.

Thus, during the campaign, when Senator Aquino drew a line in the sand, saying he would not recognize any chief justice appointed by Mr. Arroyo, the Palace seized on it to accuse him of recklessness and contempt for the law. A unanimous ex cliquate its own relentless assault on well-established ethical and legal principles. In a similar vein, media and the political class knew the administration was viewing the anticipated results of the 2010 elections with dread. Informed circles weren't surprised when it made a last-minute gamble to postpone the elections; and in the course of this scheme of the administration, Aquino's warning that the public wouldn't tolerate postponing the elections was both timely and necessary. As Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, initially (and naively) critical of the warning, belatedly realized.

Recklessness and irresponsibility, therefore, are characteristics of the administration and its Constitution-related experiments. Aquino has properly refused to concede logic or legitimacy to the administration's efforts. He has properly called attention to the reality that the President's superintendation would have failed if she hadn't found willing accomplices, including Associate Justice Renato Corona who shows every sign of being eager to grab the poisoned chalice of a controversial chief magistracy offered by the President.

It is a chalice a former chief justice, Manuel Moran, viewed as simply unethical to accept as far back as 1953. It is a cup that—Corona must be made to recognize—will contain, if not legal, then certainly, ethical hemlock as far as his standing before the next president and the country is concerned. When Aquino said he would prefer to take his oath of office before a humble bishop-ly official, he was anticipating the concerns of the oath to be administered on June 30: to uphold both the spirit and letter of the Constitution and to do justice to every man.

Corona must be quarantined until our institutions resolve his legitimacy. What Mr. Arroyo and Justice Corona are requesting the country to do it to surrender to tradition when it is tradition—and the law—that they have both flouted. Aquino need not dignify this travesty by extending any kind of official courtesy.

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The last presidential elections

SEPARATE OPINION

Haggai A. Cruz

ONCE, ON A CHANCE MEETING WITH SOME retired justices of the Supreme Court, Chairman Jose A. R. Melo of the Commission on Elections delivered his accustomed lecture on the Precinct Count Optical Scan machine system and the advantages it would bring to our democracy after his rather lengthy explanation, I interjected what must have been the general sentiment of the group that the machines could be used for cheating, reflecting my experiences in past elections.

In the general elections last Monday, I realized how wrong I could be. The machines performed wonderfully (when they worked), and the counting of votes was relatively expeditious. There was an army of them in operation but only a few that malfunctioned, unfortunately including the one used by the president-elect which broke down early and was never repaired.

The PCOS machines stood silently while waiting to service the long lines of voters. How many of the voters came? Our friends who, through undaunted by the unwieldiness machines, were awe struck by the responsibility of suffrage. Even were old women who could hardly support themselves and old men who could hardly stand unaided but all of them eager to vote by the peculiar machines. Here too was a delightful new aspect of the automated polls: that involuntary gesture of victory and delight the anxious voter made when greeted with the message, "Congratulations! Your vote has been accepted."

There were, of course, the remnants of the old time methods, each anxious to speak his mind through the instrumentality of the precinct ballot. Looking at the long lines of Filipinos waiting for their turn, one could wonder how all could be accommodated even with the extension of the voting hours. And yet remarkably, many of those who came, stayed, became the laborers: queues, the heat, their fatigue, and the various irritations, they patiently awaited their turn to make history.

One of the better features of the new method is the facility of ascertaining the winners. The last presidential election closed after voting was extended by one hour to accommodate the interminably long lines of voters eager to manifest their will. In the past, the people would have to wait for hours and even unprecedented days before they could sense the hoped-for results—and then often the winners were seen to be prematurely called.

Now it is different. The audience of the last election did not have to bring their hands in anxiety because within hours, the results of the presidential election could be anticipated and reported to the jubilant people. Noynoy Aquino, the favorite, had triumphed with a mighty win that could not be overcome. Joseph Estrada and Manny Villar pulled votes that, taken together, could not match. It was clear that at that stage of the election, Noynoy Aquino had won as the next president of the Philippines.

The following day Villar conceded the exercise of his duty and the process by which he had won. This was taken as an admission of the candidates of the new elections that was also commended (but later denied) by Joseph Estrada.

I join the people in their hearty wishes but would add my warm congratulations for a job well done to the Honorable Jose A. R. Melo, former justice of the Supreme Court and now chairman of the Commission on Elections. The sound baths for him have softened to applause for his leadership in changing the old suspicion of the Comelec into a new confidence in the purity of the ballot.

I will add my own good wishes to the members of the Commission on Elections and the men and women of the body who have received their just encomiums for their good conduct and praise for their personal efforts in making the last election worthy of their task.

The old superstition of the Commission on Elections is not worth remembering. It was especially deplorable during the period of martial law, when one of the most villainous elections was rendered against the murdered Senator B. Aquino in 1969, to name was further remembered with the report of the Enrile tapes that were revealed even after the establishment of the new government. But again, it seems things are different now.

The only flaw that I could see resulting from the recent polls was that Gloria Macapagal Arroyo had been proclaimed congresswoman of the second congressional district of Pampanga. I wished there were some mistake, but no. Frankly I was more interested in seeing the final votes of senatorial winners. I want to know how many votes will make the grade this time.

It is important for me to know if the winners have succeeded in such number so to overcome the legitimate members of the lower six. In such a case, we should change the name of the Upper Chamber to something more fitting like "Senior Senate" or "Sake Dio."

On bended knees

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A GROUP WHO went incognito climbing at the Alps. When they reached the summit, one of them refused to see the magnificent view similar shown, only to be pulled down by the guide with the words: "Do you know, Madam? The winds are strong, and the sight can be confusing at the top."

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk 24, 46-53) the Lord ended his earthly sojourn in a mountaintop with His disciples not with a victory celebration but with admonition, and with a mission that repentance be preached to His name beginning in Jerusalem. As He had done all throughout His lifetime, at the Ascension the Lord was leading His disciples not inward, but outward, but toward the Father and the Kingdom of God.

* * *

The higher one goes, the lower one must bend. To all the victors of the recent elections, on your knees, are and mendators! Only on your knees can you know how you really are, and can you see where you fit in the larger plan. There is a big picture. There is a master plan. You are not the big picture. You are just a dot in the master plan.

* * *

Focus. This is not unsolicited advice to the victors and to their teams, and by focus, we do not mean focus on the tremendous responsibility that can be anxious about. Position is secondary. Mission is everything. The statement is absurd and meaningless for one who does not know how to bend his/her knees.

* * *

Along with the mission is the assurance and consolation that one is not alone. "And behold, I am sending the promise of the Father upon you but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." Worldly power can be intimidating. Power from on high is empowering.

* * *

Power is given. It is not grabbed. Power is received. It is not embezzled. Those who ambition her and are obsessed by worldly power and position by all means and any means are not in tune with the power focus on high. Those who ascend to power through the main door are called victors. (They are also rightly called victims.) Those who ascend to power through the back door and by whatever other door are called thieves.

* * *

I feel sad when I think of worthy people who could have or should have run in the recent elections but could not because they had no money party, persons not family and business links. I feel sad for worthy people who did not win just because their opponents had the guns, guns and gold. May we transcend our present way of doing politics, and ascend to a higher level of public service where the brightest and the best of us are given the chance to serve our people. Why, oh why, indeed, can't we be truly free to choose the leaders we like? Why do we have the same mess all over and over again?

* * *

To President-apparent Noynoy Aquino, in the context, to those called to serve, let us be inspired by these words of Fr. Superior General Tony Perezia, SVD: "We are not perfect. We are weak, imperfect, limited, but what the Lord asks of us is not great talents or outstanding abilities, but selfless generosity and unflagging dedication to the mission entrusted to us. After all, it is not our mission first and foremost but God's. And the risen Lord has promised that He will be with us until the end of time."

* * *

It has been a long night. The night is dark, with many storms and uncertainties. A new dawn is breaking, full of promises for a fresh start and new beginnings. Let us continue to work and pray for a better Philippines.

* * *

By the way, today is World Communication Day Sunday. It has been 2,000 years since the Lord gave us the mandate at the Ascension to go to the whole world and preach the Gospel to all creation. What have you done, what are you doing to spread the good news? Are you yourself a good news?

* * *

One lesson we all must have learned by now is that nobody stays at the top forever. When our exit time has come, try as we might to hold on, we will go. May we not exit on to shame. May we not hold on to nonsense. May we not hold on to nonsense. Rather, like the Risen Lord, may we command, and ascend into a new level of living and find new meanings. May the Lord bless our "holies" and "goodbyes," our arrivals and leavings.

* * *

Inviting you to "The Glorious Praise," our SVD Centennial Concert on May 29, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the St. Jude Catholic School Auditorium with Fr. Raul Caga, SVD. The Mt. Gospel, yours truly and Bulma Asuncion. For particulars, please call St. Jude Parish, 7356468; Sacred Heart Parish 8990659; SVD Mission Office 7217457.

* * *

Think about it: "The God we meet in good times is the same God we meet in bad times. Who or how, we must not forget our home."

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, on bended knees, help me to renew my mission in life, whether I am or less, whether I'm up or down. Amen.

Thunderous triumph of People Power

DESPITE THE SWELTERING GEOMETRIC queues, technical glitches, cacophonous, insistent arguments and other burdens of Comelec and Smartmatic, our people persevered. Human bodies and technological hitches could not stop the thunderous Noynoy landslide.

Now manififested as People Power One (or five nationwide automated elections as a resounding triumph of People Power of the socio-cosmic-liminal genre. Our people spared for a peaceful transition of power, no longer by staging manufactured rallies, but by posting a massive electoral mandate via the "intra-constitutional" People Power 2, many constitutionalists still contest the legitimacy of her ascension in 2001. In contrast, the 2010 People Power 1 catapulted Noynoy to his rightful unquestioned constitutionality.

This new genre of People Power is embodied in the 1987 Constitution of Cory Peringly, it subverts the providence of her son. The thunderous landslide gives him a clear bond, start to begin his term in office with a strong mandate and political capital to survive public support to his agenda of change. It gives him enormous clout to transform our warped democratic institutions immediately.

As I anticipated in several columns, the cheering of the precincts precipitated long lines that even caused, funnily, the Comelec to declare a state of emergency only one hour of election in quezon (2012) and one PCOS machine to 3,000 voters. My wife and I arrived at our voting center before 7 a.m. Yet, there were over 20 voters ahead of us. The line moved very slowly, only one to two after 45 minutes. It turned out we were lucky. Other people, including Noynoy, endured many hours to cast their ballots.

Just how many were actually disenfranchised, how many could not stand the heat or could not wait because of other commitments may never be accurately counted. But how many voters were granted exposure of PCOS machine malfunction, soul misalignment, ballot rejection and printing errors may no longer be precisely known.

Similarly, just how the inadequate training of the BEIs, the inefficiency of the Comelec interior, brutes and the counter-education of voters impacted on the results, just how many were not able to vote because of their exclusion from the voters' list, and just how many candidates have been denied victory due to disenfranchisement may no longer be exactly determined. I agree though with Sen. Jamby Madrigal that these puzzles must still be investigated.

Machine makers detested. No matter, the many who were able to vote gave Noynoy a phenomenal landslide. They prevented falsified elections through massive cheating and they encouraged thousands from piling their trade. Our people gave him no hope a margin that could not be overcome by cheating. Indeed, those who wanted to corrupt our succession rules via the boldest scenario, to wrest via military rule, were overwhelmed by the Noynoy landslide.

True, the Commission on Elections labored under difficult circumstances. It had less than one year to purge from full manual count to full automated count, a feat never attempted anywhere in the world. However, there were, apart from the information clustering of precincts, other glaring errors and missteps that could have been easily prevented or avoided.

For example, why did Comelec choose small (yours) measuring only half the size of the ballots thereby violating the secrecy of the vote? The Screens lured pop-phobes watching the ballot of former President Joseph Estrada and exposing his failure to vote for a vice president in a plea to expose remainder of this violations. The lack of polling places "presided" over by secretary and vice president. The giant Comelec had their hands too, but some of them overlooked voter privacy.

No transparency of precinct count. One result stayed people applauded the instant transmission of the counts and the instant election returns. The parallel counts of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting and media outfits like GMA7 and ABS-CBN affirmed the count. Note, however, that all these automated results came from the same election returns spewed out by the PCOS machines at the close of election.

There do not explain how the PCOS machines counted the individual votes. There was no check on how the machines tallied the individual ballots. Remember that the voters were merely told to feed their ballots into the machines. They were not informed that they would then press abortion for the machine to count them.

All recall, I have a sigh of relief that the automatic summaries like a nationwide ballots of elections, corruption, the counter votes, midterm presidency and military rule did not come to pass. I had this new manifestation of People Power and the miraculous duet of a peaceful transition of powers. May the miracle continue and guide our next president in reinventing a new and better Philippines.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ifko@antipologroup.net, belair@hotmail.com

WITH DUE RESPECT

Armando V. Fungyuanhua

Six days after

DEAD SOUL MAY 15, A MY EYE SHACK (MACHINE) against the cracked yellow wall, the sounds with the cracked wallpaper flapping open and closed, but my roommate yapping in schools. Cheating, screams the pudgy woman, as the nodding crowd outside the classroom shores. Inside, the teachers in white and stripes continue to count, shoulders smearing at each pounded ballot. The students join the rabble-

METHOD TO MADNESS

Patricia Evangelista

group effigies in the empty jail, the hallway shrinks, and a teacher is shoved and molested.

After 5 days day in Bagobo A., 6,800 votes for the taking, chipped red nail polish, exaggerating hand bone in their wide-bearer dents and denies on soft-boring down cementing-boot-tapes in padded pink lines. Waiting three hours, says the third man in the baseball cap. Five hours, says the mother with the nursing front tooth. Squares of paper brandished, numbers hand printed, teachers in crisp white rolling on 204.

"So far this has been the most peaceful compared to our previous elections," said AFP Joint Task Force Ilaga chief Col. Ricardo Morales in a press briefing at Camp Apolinario Mendoy evening, June 10 dead, says the grateful AFP Successful elections, chirp the Comelec. In Pagasa A., hundreds of voters went home without voting after seven-hour waits, others stayed, demanding for names that have disappeared from lists.

From Bagobo-Bagobo, New York Times' Carlos Conde makes a phone call. "They're shooting around us," he says, "three, four shots. They're still shooting." In Barasoain CBD, Mayor Rebecca Lanot of Ilaga, Batiquo did fire and his brat-earners are still being held hostage by the New People's Army.

Lone bastardlies fix pure yellow serenade, the big guns of the provincial nullos tipping their way into congressional house. The dictator's daughter and the rapist's son, their names bright and brilliant in the best-long ballot. Pompanga gets its own president, Duterte keeps his fashion, and a flurry sun rise on the Malacañan dresser for the 24th in the tradition of Ayonne Bonoy's 23 year reign.

Governor Mujiv Hataman, Representative Bensar, Senator Marcos, at a time when the son of the assassinated Ninoy Aquino knows his yellow ribbon.

"I thank the Lord, the Bayanan, the Filipino people for the overwhelming mandate for the Marcoses in spite of all the odds," former First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos told The Associated Press. Mabuhay. "The Filipino people can be assured of our selfless and endless service and love to all."

Governor Dy Representative Dy and Mayor Dy assemblies in Isabela, where a limping Grace Padaca said her people had been cheated.

Governor Mariga, Representative Ortega, Mayor Ortega (no Ilonggo Chinese), Governor Garcia, Representative Garcia, and Mayor Garcia were free from Bataan.

There is little talk of party and policy, only family survival and the continuity of a dynasty in Cotagato. Three seats will represent the family of convicted rapist and former representative Romeo Jalosjos, and for the Senate, the performance that is quite capable of consistently saying nothing, carrying the same names that have peopled the Senate roll call for generations. Robinson Santiagos and Estradas will dance with Bautis, Lapid and the eternal Aquino "Boxy" Enrile—described in his official Senate biography as "the handsome movie star."

Welcome to election 2010, where media companies are now more than ever, media companies, where no democracy for him, and a survey company runs a presidential candidate for mental damages. Night after Dick Gordon used the Social Weather Stations for false results. Candidates concede, and withdraw concession the next day, while a priest reports a police officer found smoking in cholate song out.

Six days after election, the votes are counted, and the final numbers are still pending. Transmission problems, says the Comelec. On television, the absent president defends the counts, vetoed votes who promised to leave if her brother is elected president. "If my mare leaves, the lives of my nephews will be dumped. For what reason? What did she do? What are the allegations?" she asks. "I don't think that's fair." Indeed, they were punishment. I don't think that's fair," he says. Yet, that will the voters who voted on the basis of that promise, made by a woman who once made her congressman brother act as her spokesperson during her fight with ex-boss Joey Marquez. It is an interesting defense by the Aquino son, who many say is the manner that his family did no wrong in keeping Hacienda Luisita.

Six days after the elections. Names have been proclaimed, winners announced, and still there is no way to call it the ballots match the numbers. The chairman behind the Batalion Manual Audit says it may take over a month, with only a small percentage of the 1,145 precincts delivering in the delivery of reports in the Commission on Elections in Manila. Sixty five PCOS machines found in an Antipolo home. "Company policy" says Smartmatic president for non-Pacific Lance Hoens... the technicians simply wanted to store them in a more secure place. The twitter accounts are quiet. The dead have been written off. The president-elect is holding his mother's hand.

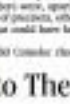
In Pasong A. Elementary School, a PCOS machine breaks down, a cursating crowd mutters outside the classroom, and an English teacher climbs up on a chair. "We have three options, people. You can trust us with your ballots, and we'll find them for you when the machine is fixed. You can come back when the machine is fixed, or if this Comelec needs a replacement. Or you can shower me in vote." Her name is Helena Belario. When she speaks, she voters listen. And when she hears that the Comelec had withdrawn the ban on teachers voting outside their precincts, she stands up, glowing with sweat, bright-eyed and ghostly, and announces to all and anybody that she will vote once. At 7:30 that night, she finally casts her vote into her PCOS machine. She is one of millions who stand for the vote, who deserve more vigilance than just company policy and a "speedy" election.

Six days after the election, we must start to go.

Many thanks to BrenBlue and this.dimension.com

Thanks to The Pill

AT LARGE



Nina Jimenez-David

MOTHERS DAY COINCIDED THIS YEAR WITH the 50th anniversary of "The Pill," as the oral contraceptive pill is better known.

Commentaries on the occasion ranged from the unbelievable to the sane. The Pill liberated women and made it possible for them to delay pregnancy and pursue other interests like a career; it contributed to the weakening of family. Over the supposed "sexual liberation" of women led to promiscuity and the breakdown of the family).

Like most public statements on private affairs, they tend to simplify matters, to dichotomize the dilemma. True, The Pill freed women not necessarily to have as much sex as they wanted, but to have sex without fear of getting pregnant. Amid various reactions view this as a bad thing—the outstanding of which sounds ominously like "natural" connotations of its name—others see emancipation. Most women (and many men, too), I think, welcomed the advent of The Pill, not just because it promised relief from pregnancy, but also because it made such problem circumstances, safe, cheap and convenient. It put contraception in the hands of women. Husbands and partners did not have to leave whether a woman was taking The Pill or not. And she could—at least in reverse time—get hold of The Pill without having to ask anyone's permission or consent.

For between those perks is a vast array of realities, thanks to the ability of women in the world being too poor to afford contraception or their own, yes, even for a single packet of pills. In addition like women's continuing lack of access to the most basic health services, and not just because they cannot afford to pay for transportation or to get to the nearest clinic. Or how "devoted" husbands, brothers, husbands and in laws still argue too much against even a woman's life, including whether she and how often she is to have children.

* * *

I REMEMBER watching a movie when I was a teenager about a young wife whose sister mother died from childbirth just before the young woman was to get married.

Her mother's death so traumatized this bride that she refused—or found it impossible—to engage in sexual relations with her husband. Lurking in the back of her mind was the fear that sex would lead to pregnancy and death to childbirth, and death to death.

"For Orthodoxy who doesn't she just take The Pill?" I wondered aloud in the course of the movie. In the days before the movie was out, much about sexual dysfunction as it was the Elizabeth's stand against the Catholic Church's ban on "artificial" contraception. The film, after all, was situated in Ireland, and it was the fog of war between the women's councils Catholicism and her need for some assurance that sex with her husband would not kill her that conquered the film's central dilemma.

Sadly, I've forgotten how the movie ended, and how the sad young wife solved her problem. I guess I made up my mind about what I would do if I were in her place long before the movie ended.

* * *

I did add enough to remember a time when women's magazines considered a dating art of investigative journalism to find out who could be dropped and by whom. The OB, in the time, diagnosed self-required proof that a woman was married before she would buy herself an OBC contraceptive.

And early on my column-writing career, friends and acquaintances commented on how "brave" I was to admit publicly that I had used The Pill early in my married life, when I had mentioned it in my columns.

I was perplexed by this. I had supposed that most women my age had gone on The Pill at least once in their lives, and that the decision was made with very little wrestling with conscience. Maybe I was wrong, thinking that Filipino women were more practical and pragmatic than they were in reality. Maybe I also read the situation wrong, thinking that they all popping—or popping The Pill—was no more offensive or problematic or taking an aspirin or tetanol when one is drowned by the flu.

Indeed the continuing controversy—or dysfunction—surrounding the Pill in the Philippines was underscored when a women senator told the media her child, she was divorced supporter before health and family planning, she found relief in "natural family planning." This was followed by outgoing President Macapagal Arroyo's admitting that she had used the Pill to space the births of her three children. A statement "unwanted" by the health secretary at that time who said that the President had used The Pill only because she didn't know any better.

* * *

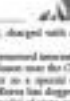
PILL. I think that official installed not just the President but millions of Filipino women, including this columnist. The Pill, which has become a symbol of the "sexual revolution" and of a subdebauge of Freedom for women, has been through the decades the family planning method of choice of Pinays and of their busy partners.

This Pinay stands up her mind long before the even met her husband-to-be, determined that to a marriage as important as this—changing in motherhood—she would first of all protect herself and her health, and would not allow anyone, not even the man she would end up marrying, the power to make decisions for her. Luckily, the Pinay she ended up marrying agreed with her and shared her desire to space their children and to protect the mother's health.

I think I could say a better mother because of The Pill. Because I knew and was assured that I would get pregnant only when I felt it was the right time and that we were ready for each child. I had five children I desired and wanted, and I had the assurance that I was always ready for them well, because having them was a lovely decision and considered decision their father and I made. And all this thanks to The Pill.

The Chinese road to Pyongyang

WORLD VIEW



John Delury

SEOUL—KIM JONG IL'S VISIT TO CHINA this week was a gentle reminder that the road to Pyongyang leads through Beijing. China is the only power that has remained engaged with North Korea, through many ups and downs, whereas Russia, Japan, the United States and South Korea have all come and gone.

By keeping a door open to North Korea's lead ers, China is making a substantial contribution to regional peace. This is bold diplomacy—for which China is given little credit—at a highly sensitive moment.

Nevertheless, China's "leverage" over North Korea is in part illusory. Kim's visit should be evaluated in terms of Chinese-North Korean relations as they are, rather than as others might wish them to be. Doing so reveals the role left to Americans and others to engage the leaders of China to evolve the denuclearization process and repair joint Korean relations.

Three widespread misconceptions distorted the coverage of Kim's visit to China. The first misconception is that he desperately sought Chinese aid to prop up his regime in the face of mounting domestic and international economic crises. But, although North Korea's latest economic reversals have shaken the leadership, the regime has weathered worse. And the economic relationship between China and North Korea is driven as much by business interests and economic factors as it is by government-to-government mobility.

Indeed, trade overshadows aid, and China—led by its border provinces—is now North Korea's main trading partner and source of foreign investment. Premier Wen Jiabao on removed a major trade package during his trip to Pyongyang in October. The package, worth on the order of $10 billion, North Korea recently established the State Development Bank and Tanpang International Investment Group (headed by a Korean-Chinese businessman), charged with attracting foreign investment.

Kim's visit to China removed interest in developing the port city of Rason near the China-Russia-North Korea border as a special economic zone. Although North Korea has doggedly stood behind its centralized model of state control and central planning, Kim's visits to the hotels cities of Dalian and Tianjin reflect his newfound fascination with the idea of engaging foreign investors to achieve "strength and prosperity" for his country.

The second misconception is that Chinese President Hu Jintao offered Kim a "big package" of aid in exchange for returning to the Six Party Talks on North Korea's nuclear program. We no doubt hoped for such a reconciliation—but China is not by buying off Kim with aid. Rather, Hu would have determined the level of Kim's readiness to resume, what preconditions and incentives are in play, and what room for maneuver exists, given the position of the other parties.

Kim apparently reiterated his government's willingness to return to the talks, but the question is what kind of assurances he was able to give Hu in order to persuade a wary U.S.-and South Korea that he is really ready to deal. Moreover, Hu, not merely announced, but also, not that Chinese aid is coming, but that the Americans, South Koreans and Japanese are prepared to give and take.

The final misconception is that Hu might have demanded an explanation from Kim as to the causes of the fatal sinking of a South Korean vessel in late March. Hu, having recently met with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, must have discussed the issue with Kim, as well as the interim premier Lee is under to respond, if not resolute, to the sinking. He did not express that South Korea is guilty. Even in the face of strong evidence of North Korean wrongdoing, the Chinese are inclined to view the incident in the context of inter-Korean relations, and do not want to let it drive a wedge between China and the U.S.

Rather than criticize Pyongyang, US President Barack Obama and Lee should now reach out to the Chinese for thorough debriefings about what was learned from Kim's visit—on security as well as economic issues. China should continue to lead the effort to encourage reform and opening by the North and engage the leadership with help from international financial institutions.

The United States, moreover, should actively seek a path back to the Six Party Talks, working both the briefers also that North Korea can move be persuaded to sell back its nuclear program and the dangers notice of people waiting for the North Korean regime to start bragging, their collapse.

South Korea undoubtedly faces the biggest dilemma, and the way forward will have to await the reverberations of the latest tension into the ending of its standby and the deaths of its sailors. But one way or another, President Lee needs to find a way to get inter-Korean relations back on a peaceful track.

Project by tasks are

John Delury is associate director of the Asia Institute's Center on US-China Relations and teaches at Columbia University. He is also director of the Asia Society's Track II project on "Cultivating Conflict and Cooperation's last price report "Yes it Korea inside this: The Case for Economic Engagement."

THEY SAID

Last priority

"The last thing we should be doing is battling the security and lives of the people regarding the elections. We can deal with accountability later, and you can bet on that. But now, we should be working together."
—Former Comelec Chair Christian Monsod

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TALK of the TOWN

Election 2010

Please send feedback to: jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Edna Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

MAY 10 AFTERMATH

Things change; constants remain

By Ross Llarina

IN EXPLAINING THE POLITICS OF CHANGE, JOHN Naisbitt, best-selling author of Megatrends, once remarked that when many things change, most things remain the same.

Former Supreme Court justice Isagani Cruz, to give their big support to the midwifeking. And the rest is history.

First

In the rest of the world, now a can be solid and trivial. The Philippines is the first country in Southeast Asia to have fully validated and carried out the shift from manual to automated polls on a nationwide scale. The country is the part of the world has pulled off such a technological feat.

On that day the rest of the world once again witnessed that when Filipinos unite behind one political objective, they can make things happen and create a difference.

And a few days before the elections, the experiments with automated polls—long buffeted by odds and obstacles—almost suffered its demise.

When tested, the PCOS machines failed to count correctly and bungled. The last minute hitches, which resulted in the recall of 76,000 memory cards, revived the issues on our propensities to undermine the massive experiment on automated elections.

But the stakeholders of the experiment, the Filipino voters, refused to buckle. They wanted the experiment to push through. Even the critics confess that by calling for proper safeguards, they have not wanted the process to succeed, for the people's sake.

Despite the last minute debacle, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) rebounded with the mantra of "till extreme." The confidence inspired the stakeholders, including major political parties and the

Drones

Despite the grim scenarios, the Comelec and its deputies—particularly the teachers—delivered on Election Day.

For much of the credit goes to the Filipino voters themselves. In the first hours, they went to the polling centers in droves, settled for hours in slow-moving queues, braved the punishing summer heat (and rains in other areas), withstood incoherencies due to technical defects and lackadaisical management, and patiently waited for hours to cast their ballots at the previous manual optical scan machine.

Despite the long lines and sluggish pace of voting which forced a lot of voters to quit, many Filipinos opted to stick it out. The final tally remains impressive—a 75 percent voter turnout.

Compared with most countries in the world, the Election Day turnout will rank as among the highest, which underscores how Filipinos value their right to vote and welcome the automated polls.

Massive changes

With the automated rollouts, the three major components of an electoral process—voting, counting and transmission of results—underwent massive changes. Of the three components, the counting of ballots—presented in rapid fashion—earned high marks in postmortem evaluations. The other aspects of the process—casting of ballots and transmission of results—flourished due to management and technical problems.

The long queues and sluggish pace of voting resulted in millions of Filipinos casting their votes after 7 p.m. Many of the voters, which could have been avoided early on by proper management. The transmission jams resulted in untold delays in canvassing and proclamations, which could have been prevented with a truly enabling more moderne, greater quality control of transmyriads and efficient management.

Here to stay

Despite the setbacks, the automation system is definitely here to stay. As a result, much of our old ways in conducting elections—from voting, counting to transmission of results—will now be rendered obsolete for good and replaced with new methods fit for the Information Age.

From setting names on the ballots, it is now dawning of people from mano mano reading of ballots to electronic counting and placement of silent last resorts, and from physical or manual delivery of results and ballot boxes to electronic transmission of election returns.

3Gs, glitches

While automation has ushered in changes in the way we hold our elections, most of the things of the past have remained constant. Based on the experts contacted by Comelec, an election is a campaign, the traditional practices associated with the mano mano system... were keeping us all in status, intimidation and violence—remain alive in many parts of the country. But with automation, electoral contests will not just be decided by the three Gs—guns, goons and gold—but also by glitches.

Based on the results, the automated polls may have weakened and sped up our ways of documenting the will of the voters, but not much of the old ways in conducting elections—from voting, counting to transmission of results—will now be rendered obsolete for good and replaced with new methods fit for the Information Age.

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Based on the results, the automated polls may have weakened and sped up our ways of documenting the will of the voters, but not much of the old ways of the old-time politics has remained largely unaffected.

Patronage politics

Just like in the past, traditional political families—both old and wrinkled by patronage politics—still ruled the results of the automated elections in the local areas. In Northern Luzon, the Marcoses remained their relatives in the automated polls.

In Cebu province, the Garcias mowed down gallant challenges to their dominance. In Maguindanao, the Mangudadatus have finally caught up with the Ampatuans. The same scenario holds true in most parts of the country where elections have been reduced to enmities of established political clans.

In the local contests, the personalities of candidates, not party platforms, still govern much of the results of the automated polls. Two new political parties—Ang Kapatiran Party and Bangon Pilipinas—sought to introduce a system upgrade in Philippine politics by fielding

HISTORIC VOTE In the country's first automated elections, voters wait in line to feed their ballots into a counting machine at a polling precinct in San Juan City.

reform-driven and surging campaigns based on a more defined platform of issues. But both ended up completely marginalized in the automated polls. Anti-candidates mowed down most of the 76,000 precincts nationwide.

While the outgoing Malacañang occupant is a daughter of a former President, the incoming occupant is a son of a former (and beloved) President whose death sparked an outpouring of calls to revive the yellow legacy. He and his running mate waged their yellow campaign on the same platforms—"Noynoy mahusay bosuge walang mahirap"—but ended up with contrasting fate at the polls.

Emerging as second placer of the race is a former President himself who was ousted by people power in corruption charges. But his running mate, who also had his own share of graft charges, skyrocketed to the top.

Just like in the past, personalities and name recall, not issues and party advocacies, dominate the outcome of the automated polls in the senatorial race.

The two front runners are both celebrities: The first is a television host who belongs to the

(Ross Llarina is the head content of Comelec, a non-partisan watch group accredited by the Commission on Elections as a national citizens' arm in the May 10 elections.)

PCOS machine ushers in new poll rules

By Ramon Casiple

HE HOLDS PEOPLE POWER.

The era of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is ended. With its passing, the demise of much-touted politics as we know it has begun.

The Arroyo administration was born in the wake of what is now acknowledged as a tarnished Edsa II. The latter's raison d'etre was the perceived corruption and entrenchment of the Estrada administration.

What she introduced as a replacement, charged her critics, were a systematic plunder of the nation's wealth and the circumvention of both the rule of law and democratic institutions.

The ZTE-NBN scandal and the Garci-Hello Garci episode represented the nadir of Ms Arroyo's plunge into the realm of traditional practices of both the rule of law and democratic institutions.

What she introduced as a replacement, charged her critics, were a systematic plunder of the nation's wealth and the circumvention of both the rule of law and democratic institutions associated with the manual system of the old era.

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PCOS machine ushers in new poll rules

By Ramon Casiple

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What she introduced as a replacement, charged her critics, were a systematic plunder of the nation's wealth and the circumvention of both the rule of law and democratic institutions associated with the manual system of the old era.

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The two front runners are both celebrities: The first is a television host who belongs to the

feeling administration party Gabay Kampi and the second is also a television host who belongs to the resurgent opposition camp—PMP). The incubators of the results resonates loud and clear.

Real story

Behind the incoherent messages for the real story in the automated polls. Technology may improve the conduct of our elections but it cannot alter the substance of our electoral democracy—the honey, reliance on the politics of patronage and personal networks, instead of platforms and political parties.

Automation cannot bring the quality of our electoral politics to the desired level of modern day mannered democracies.

Despite our full embrace of automated polls, much of the inconsistencies and weaknesses in Philippine style electoral politics will endure. The more things change, the more the constants remain.

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THE FIRST BATCH of senatorial candidates pose with Comelec Chair Jose Melo (fourth from left) and Commissioner Rene Sarmiento (second from left) following their proclamation yesterday. They are (from left) Bong Revilla, Jinggoy Estrada, Jose Ponce Enrile, Pia Cayetano, Ralph Recto and Nicanor "Tito" Soriano. The other senator-elect were Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Franklin Drilon and Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

9 senators' proclamation fastest ever in RP history

From page A1

were done electronically.

That the proclamation came but when it used to take weeks before the leading candidates were known, was one of the "rewards" of the computerized system, said Comelec Chair Jose Melo.

"For the Comelec, this proclamation ceremony is the cornerstone upon which we shall implore rebuild public trust and confidence in the conversion," he said.

Autor tops list

The group of winners was headed by actor-politician Ramon Revilla Jr., who got 18,453,146 votes.

Revilla was followed by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, the son of deposed President Joseph Estrada, who took 17,732,161 votes. Both will be serving second terms.

They were followed by Miriam Defensor Santiago (16,886,001), Franklin Drilon (14,770,611), Jose Ponce Enrile (14,409,265), Pia Cayetano (13,653,946), Ferdinand Marcos Jr. (12,272,138), Ralph Recto (12,040,879) and Tito Sotto (11,160,877).

Except for Marcos, the others were either reelectionists or had served as senators in previous congresses.

The election of Marcos, 52, marks the first time that any member of the family which went into exile after the 1986 People Power Revolution has control the divine, has been elected to congressional post.

As of 7 a.m. yesterday, the Comelec had canvassed 95 percent of the votes, and received 96 of the 102 provincial certificates of canvass and 78 of 171 certificates of canvass from overseas absentee voting posts.

34M votes already counted

This translated to 34 million votes counted from the estimated turnout of 37 million in the automated election, said Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez.

General Lucas, Western Visayas, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and the Cordillera Autonomous Region have yet to complete the transmission of votes to the NBOC.

The Comelec said it has yet to complete the canvassing of votes from 166 overseas posts where elections were held.

Revilla, Estrada, Cayetano, Recto, Sotto and Recto attended the proclamation ceremony presided over by Melo at the Philippine International Convention Center.

Defensor-Santiago reportedly was stuck in Tagaytay City while Marcos was said to have a medical appointment. She was said to be unaware of the short notice given, Comelec officials said.

In a statement, Marcos said he would use his experience as governor and congressman of Ilocos Norte "to transform our country and prepare it for the challenges of a constantly changing global order."

He congratulated Sen. Benigno Aquino III, who is heading for a landslide victory and likely to be the country's next president, and offered his support to the incoming administration.

Aquino's parents, former President Corazon Aquino and slain opposition leader Benigno Aquino Jr., are regarded as heroes in the country's democratic struggle against the Marcos dictatorship.

Aquino Jr. was gunned down by soldiers at the Manila international airport in 1983 upon his return from exile to challenge Marcos. He was subsequently hailed his murder, winning against the dictator in the 1986 snap election and leading non-violent street protests when the election was stolen, eventually ousting in the first Edsa people power revolution that ousted the dictator.

10th to 12th known Monday

As of yesterday, according to the NBOC count, the candidates occupying the 10th to 12th slots were: Sergio Osmeña III (10,999,961), Leo Lapid (10,207,121), Teofisto Guingona III (9,666,951), Alan Flonterosa Banaquel (8,581,121), Rolly Bianco (8,140,687), and Joey de Venecia (7,867,881).

Jinggoy said the 10th to 12th places could be known by Monday when the figures from the remaining provinces that have yet to transmit the results come in.

The nine new senators will join incumbent Senators Juan Miguel Zubiri, Manuel Villar, Antonio Trillanes IV, Francis Pangilinan, Loren Legarda, Sheilla Lacson, Gregorio Honasan, Francis Escudero, alias Dodo Cayetano, Joker Arroyo and Edgardo Angara.

Comelec officials said the 13th placer will not be given the seat that was occupied by Sen. Benigno Aquino III, who is leading the count in the presidential race and appears set to be the country's next president. Aquino's term ends on June 30, 2016.

Jimenez said the May 14 elections only provided for 12 senatorial seats.

Special election

Commissioner Nicodemo Ferrer said a special elections should be held for Aquino's replacement.

In the latest figures announced by the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) as 8:30 p.m. last night, Revilla, Estrada and Defensor-Santiago continued to hold on to the top three spots in the senatorial race.

With votes from 98.16 percent of 36,475 precincts already counted, the PPCRV's latest figures also showed Cayetano holding on to 12th place with 9,471,881 votes.

He fellow Liberal Party candidate Alan Flonterosa Banaquel remains in contention at the 13th spot with 6,017,448 votes.

Slim margin

A slim margin of 1,007,378 votes separates the two.

The top 12 senatorial candidates and their respective votes in the PPCRV count are as follows: Revilla, 17,832,157; Estrada 17,424,313; Defensor Santiago 15,933,489; Franklin Drilon, 14,598,370; Jose Ponce Enrile, 14,430,572; Pia Cayetano, 12,603,273; Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., 12,161,459; Ralph Recto 11,886,814; Tiamzon Banez (R, 10,967,408; Sergio Osmeña (R, 10,699,122; Leo Lapid, 10,060,734; and Guingona, 9,474,843.

Those just outside the winning circle are Flonterosa Banaquel with 8,417,466 votes; Rolly Bianco, 8,127,405; and Jose de Venecia III, 7,713,480.

STILL OTSO TOPS. Sen. Bong Revilla is congratulated by Comelec Chair Jose Melo who exclaims that the early proclamation is one of the rewards of an automated election upon which "we shall begin to rebuild public trust in the Comelec."

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BEST PRACTICES IN THE FINANCE AND SECURITIES MARKET (June 28 – July 26, 2010)
Best Practices in the Finance and Securities Market presents the market structure and processes of financial intermediation including a functional overview of the Philippine fixed income and equity securities market from a practical perspective.

REGULATORY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK (August 7 – September 11, 2010)
Regulatory and Legal Framework provides the comprehensive set of rules and regulations governing the operations of the investments and securities markets.

FINANCIAL MATHEMATICS, MARKET ANALYSIS AND ACCOUNTING (MANDATORY) (September 25 – October 23, 2010)
Financial Mathematics, Market Analysis and Accounting covers the fundamental mathematical techniques and analysis used in the market including the new statistical models and paradigms to evaluate market behavior and dynamics.

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, TRADING, MARKET MAKING AND INFRASTRUCTURE (November 13 – December 11, 2010)
Financial Instruments, Trading, Market Making and Infrastructure focuses on the management of the securities business covering trading and market liability management, securities settlement and clearing, asset management and product development including an overview of the electronic trading and payments systems and solutions.

RISK MANAGEMENT (January 15 – February 12, 2011)
Risk Management extensively covers risk identification, risk assessment, risk disclosure and transparency covering operational, credit and market risks embedded in securities products and services.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE (February 26 – March 26, 2011)
Corporate Governance emphasizes the responsibilities of directors, auditors, fund managers, trustees and other security professionals in their duties and the public including fiduciary obligations, suitability assessment and professional code of conduct.

All courses are conducted every Saturday, from 12:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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GMA firms up grip on Lakas, is chair again

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From page A1

To win the speakership, a candidate has to muster at least 141 votes in the projected 286-member chamber.

At least 107 of Lakas-Kampi-CMD's 109 congressional candidates won in the May 10 elections. But the party is confident of getting the support of more than 30 lawmakers from other administration parties such as the Nacionalista Party, as well as party-list groups.

"We have the numbers," said Pichay, Lakas-Kampi-CMD vice president for membership and accreditation.

The LP has given notice that it would block Ms. Arroyo's candidacy for the speakership. But Belmonte insists: "Senate." Furthermore, the newly proclaimed representative of Davao City's fourth district said his erstwhile ally, for the post.

Like Sonia Gandhi

At the caucus, most of the party's outgoing lawmakers proposed that Congresswoman-elect Arroyo run for the country's fourth highest post. But she was non-committal, Pichay said.

Pichay said Ms Arroyo had indicated that she wanted to follow the lead of Sonia Gandhi, the widow of assassinated Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who refused the premiership after leading her Congress party to victory in 2004.

"[Ms Arroyo] wanted to lead the party, but not necessarily run for Speaker. But the members did not relent, and tapped her on to run. She said she would keep her mind open to the proposal," Pichay said.

If she eventually decides to contest the speakership, it will be put to a vote in the party, he said.

Uphill battle

Aides of the party would give the LP's Belmonte a good fight, Pichay said. "Definitely yes. The party is preparing, for if we capture the speakership, we will not be confrontational."

However, Ms Arroyo's (deputy) spokesperson Cozy Rivera observed that she faced an uphill battle against Belmonte.

"Based on the numbers, everyone has an uphill battle," Olivar said on dzRB radio. "Everybody has the majority. Everybody has to fight their candidate. Theoretically, it only be easier for the likes of Congressman-elect Belmonte because he's allied with the President-elect."

Olivar said it would not be surprising if Arroyo's LP garner its members when Congress opens.

"But as to whether those numbers are enough for them to get the speakership, we don't know," he said. "But as I said, the President is on their back because the next Speaker is from their party ranks. It may be uphill for everybody, but I believe it's more uphill for Congressman-elect Arroyo ki...and she has not made any declaration—she decides to run for Speaker."

'Pamp to rockstar with'

Nacionalista Alloy Rep. Edcel Lagman said that with its "superiority" in numbers, Lakas-Kampi-CMD "should not forfeit its responsibility" to control the speakership and the House.

"We are the party to reckon with," Lagman, who attended the caucus, said by phone. "And if Lakas is the party to reckon with, it will be in the thick of the fight for Speaker. That is our responsibility to the party that has the most numerous numbers."

Paul Bernaldez of the Nacionalista Party could sing its tune. But party has yet to decide on its candidate for Speaker, Lagman said.

"We are preparing for the battle. And who we are going to field is an open option. At his six consolidate, we will choose who will be our champion," he said.

Lagman dismissed the idea that a lawmaker not backed by an incumbent President would have a low chance of getting elected Speaker.

"The ideal Speaker should not be a rubber stamp of the President. Otherwise, that will negate the constitutionally endorsed system of checks and balances. The Speaker of the House and the Senate president should not be abject ops of the President," he said.

Coalition building

Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio Arroyo, Mr Arroyo's brother-in-law, has predicted that no one would have the numbers to clinch the post.

But Olivar said none of the political parties, including the administration's Lakas-Kampi-CMD, had a clear majority in the House, hence the need to build alliances.

"Based on the distribution of votes, no single party can do it by itself. ... The best estimate I had (is) Lakas was 150. This was an early number from the beginning. Even if that is true, this is insubstantial, and No. 2, there are those who believe like political battlefields. And we can't blame them because we have a strong presidential system. That's why there's a strong motivation to change rules in Congress," he said.

Olivar said coalition-building would be "essential for anybody who wants to have influence in Congress, whether we're talking of President-elect Aquino or of Congressman Arroyo."

"I also, as anybody [else], if a dark number, plans to run for Speaker, they have to build their alliances," he said.

Pleasant work

In Marina City, undecided Southern Leyte Rep. Roger Mercado said his newest assignment would be in Congress to be "pleasant and fulfilling."

"My plan is to help the members of Congress, and she told us that she would be effective if she is not the Speaker," he told the Inquirer.

But even if Ms Arroyo has initially rejected the idea of tackling the speakership, there is no telling what will happen next, or if she can be convinced to change her mind, Mercado said.

He said Lakas-Kampi-CMD lawmakers had scheduled another caucus on Friday to once more discuss the party's choice for the speakership. With a report from Aner Arevalo, Inquirer Visayas

This special time worth timeless, precious mementos

From page A1

family in Dresselles, Batelec, who is known for artwork that conveys the passage of "loving, caring and sharing," decided to design a figurine based on the painting. The first prototype of the figurine was finished in March.

A "first Philippine industry," the "highly collectible" Cory figurine would be available in the market, retailing for $50 or P2,000, Sotelo said. Part of the proceeds of the sales would be donated to the Aquino Foundation.

Two versions of the Cory doll in the Children of the World Collection would also be launched alongside the Cory figurine, Sotelo added.

Humble beginnings

Originally from Michigan, Batchet, who is now 70 years old, has chosen to settle in the Philippines. He owns the Sinagpagdik Hidden Hostel and Spa in New Washington, Aklan, a fresh-coined, reversed-out spin that also hosts a "Previous Moments" gallery and a "Previous Moments" Chapel by the Sea.

Batchet's life is itself an inspiration.

Batchet's fascination for childhood sketching on paper rummaged from a factory. He pursued formal art training following his high school graduation and won a scholarship to the College of Arts and Crafts in Berkeley. After graduation, Batchet entered his college sweetheart, worked as an artist for the Child Psychiatrists. Following where he devoted his time to art and studying the Bible.

Forever special

"Previous Moments" was launched in 1975 on inspirational greeting cards and posters designed by Batchet. The first "Previous Moments" figurines were unveiled three years later.

To date, he has penned over 3,000 "Previous Moments" images since he left the endearing monkey-eyed child trademark. His designs have propelled an enormous and pleasant endeavor for weddings, birthdays and baptisms.

How does he feel about his life's work? Julius called his book, "Sum Barabas: An Artist for Christ," he wrote: "When it comes to special times, 'Previous Moments' is forever."

ANOTHER Cory doll from the collection

INQUIRER Mindanao

John Jon Bandayel
Aaron Cinf Mico R. Alcantara

Jalosjos: Zamboanga's new kingpin

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Correspondent

CONVICTED CHILD rapist and former Rep. Romeo Jalosjos Jr. has emerged as the new political kingpin in the Zamboanga Peninsula, expanding his dominion from Zamboanga del Norte to two neighboring provinces—and perhaps, more.

Jalosjos widened his influence to Zamboanga Sibugay by winning the proxy war against the Hofer political dynasty through his candidate-son and sibling.

On Thursday morning, the Provincial Board of Canvassers (PBOC) in Zamboanga Sibugay proclaimed Rommel Jalosjos as governor amid disqualification charges leveled against his candidacy. His opponent was Rep. Dulce Ann Hofer, daughter of the incumbent governor and Jalosjos' protégé Sir.

Rommel will replace George Ik, who opted to run for mayor in the capital town of Ipil but lost to a newcomer. Jalosjos' ally, businessman Mayor Gilbert Al-Bandan, George Ik's running mate, Jose Uy, also succeeded in another election sortie.

Romeo Jalosjos Jr., more known as Jon-jon, bagged the congressional seat in the second district in a tightly fought race against Hofer's son, George E.

Rommel and Romeo Jr. face disqualification cases.

George Hofer Ik and Uy are running the provinces in the [illegible] concurrent to create the new province of Zamboanga Sibugay out of the then third legislative district of Zamboanga del Sur.

Then a representative, Hofer authored the law creating Zamboanga Sibugay in 2001 and was elected its first governor. His daughter, Dulce Ann, followed in his political footsteps by becoming a representative in the second district, while his son, George E, served as provincial administrator.

The Jalosjos camp drew strength in Zamboanga Sibugay from an alliance with the family of outgoing Rep. Belma Cabilao, whose relative, Jonathan Yambao, is ruling over the congressional seat in the first district.

Another alliance is with the Ipil-based Oliquiano family. One of its members, Bro Andrés, is making the most gubernatorial post while Rommel earned the vice mayoral post of Ipil.

Moreover, nine of 10 elected members of the provincial legislative board are aligned with the Jalosjos camp.

The race suffered by the Hofers mainly signaled the beginning of another dynasty in Zamboanga Sibugay.

Home court

Jalosjos' relatives and cronies dominated the electoral races in most localities in his home province of Zamboanga del Norte.

His younger brother and look-alike, incumbent Mayor Dominador Jalosjos of the capital city of Dapitan, was reelected despite a disqualification case also filed against him.

The mayor's son, Seth, is taking the congressional seat in the first district, while a brother, Cesar, will retain the seat in the third district.

A niece, Cecilia Jalosjos Carreon, a three-term representative of the first district, is taking over as mayor of Pilan town, where her family is based.

Lawyer Rolando Yebes, a retired Customs official who is also a Jalosjos ally, was reelected governor despite the strong challenge of former Gov. Isagani Amatong. Yebes' son, Ronald, however, failed to dislodge Rep. Rolando Valdez Jalosjos from his post in the second district.

In many localities, except in Dipolog and Jose Dalman town, the top elective posts are mostly held by Jalosjos allies.

Inroads

Jalosjos, whose life sentence was commuted by President Macapagal-Arroyo leading to his early release from the maximum penitentiary, also made inroads into Misamis Occidental politics.

His daughter, Svetlana, won as mayor of the impoverished and sleepy town of Bonifacio town, edging Agnes Yap Ju by only six votes. An artist, Svetlana currently runs the family's entertainment ventures Fantasy Island in Dapitan.

Svetlana's foray into politics was largely helped by an alliance with other members of the Yap brood, who were disgruntled by an unrealized power-sharing agreement within the family.

Jalosjos began his proxy battles against the Balingasag-based Yaps in 1992 during the mayoral contest in Iligal town in Cagayan de Oro. He has been backing the Cabales family in Iligal, which borders Jasaag-Balingasag town where the Yaps also hold power.

Monday's polls saw a Cabales family ally—and presumably a Jalosjos ally—routing the Yaps in Jasaag-Balingasag. The results that tandem of Dunjo and Manuel Antman won over the

incumbent tandem of Nuñez and Hofer.

Since 2004, the Antman family has held at bay the political comeback of the Yaps in Jasaag-Balingasag.

Entrenched machinery

The expansion of Jalosjos' political influence is largely driven by an entrenched political machinery at home in Zamboanga del Norte, one of the country's poorest provinces, and a willingness to spend a fortune to get power.

In 2004, he delivered a significant lead for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the presidential race, which was supposedly repaid by the commutation of his sentence.

Even in detention while undergoing trial for raping a minor, Jalosjos managed to be reelected for congressman. He would be stripped of his position later by colleagues shortly after he retired a guilty verdict.

Nonong, as Jalosjos is known in Zamboanga del Norte, was also elected assemblyman of the then-Pagadian province during the martial law dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos. Largely due to the anti-Marcos fallout in the post-Edsa years, he lost a bid for governor.

He managed to wrest his way back to a seat in the House of Representatives.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Science Education Institute

OFFICIAL LIST OF SECOND BATCH OF QUALIFIERS FOR THE 2010 RA 7687 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) through the Science Education Institute (SEI) announces the names of the second batch of scholarship qualifiers for SY 2010-2011 under the RA 7687 Scholarship Program. The new scholarship awardees must seek admission in the identified fields of study at any of the state colleges and universities and CHED Centers of Excellence / Centers of Development. Each qualifier shall receive a notice of award from the DOST Regional Offices stating the date of orientation and contract signing. He/She shall report at the designated venue with a parent/legal guardian who must bring a 2010 Community Tax Certificate. The legal guardian is required to present his/her affidavit of guardianship. The names of the second batch of RA 7687 scholarship qualifiers are as follows (plus available at cross-out deed gen pin)

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Teachers keep PCOS safe from gunmen

ILIGAN CITY—EVEN AS SHE WAS TREMBLING in fear, Aliah Dimatanday Macabangon made sure the votes of residents of Barangay Dansolihon in Poona Piagapo, Lanao del Sur, were protected.

Macabangon, a member of the board of election inspectors (BEI) in the said village, noticed several armed men trying to enter her precinct on the day her fellow poll workers were wrapping up Monday's poll proceedings.

Macabangon said she sensed danger in the men's movements.

Then the lights suddenly went off.

Then shots rang out, she said.

Lt. Col. Allen Handiola, local military commander in the province, said the shots rang out when commotion between supporters of opposing political camps ensued outside the precinct.

"Soldiers stationed some 50 meters away from the polling center fired warning shots and unleashed tear. Reconstruction fires," Handiola said.

The armed men fled upon seeing the soldiers, he said.

When the lights went back, Handiola said the soldiers discovered Macabangon and other BEI members hiding behind a table in the next room.

"Still trembling, Macabangon was hugging the pile of ballots and the PCOS machine," Handiola said.

Handiola said Macabangon's decision to abandon the precinct proved to be lucky for her and the other board members.

As to the votes that hosted the precinct, hundreds of official ballots were scattered on the floor and the ballot box was riddled with bullets, he said.

As for Macabangon, she said there was no extraordinary in what she did.

"I have always kept in mind the reminder of our supervisor about the importance of the PCOS machine. It is in the CF card, which carries the information that gives meaning to the electoral process," she told reporters later.

The Dansolihon incident was solely one among cases of violence perpetrated by politicians and their supporters on election day.

In Akbar, Basilan, supporters of a losing mayoral candidate engaged retaliation on Monday and Tuesday, resulting in least four school buildings.

Senior Supt. Antonio Hautea, Basilan police chief, said no one was injured in the attacks but they succeeded in scaring voters and residents.

"The suspects are reportedly identified with a local candidate and were mostly armed," he said.

Hautea did not identify the losing candidate but Raoul Salili, secretary of new Akbar Mayor Ali Salili, Jikmel Bark cited camp for the attacks. *Ayan Mercado and Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao*

Gonzalez reign ends after 15 years of rule in Iloilo City

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE 15-YEAR political dominance of the family of former chief presidential legal counsel Raul Gonzalez in this city officially ended on Friday after their political rivals were proclaimed winners in the internally fought May 13 elections.

The city board of canvassers (BOC) proclaimed outgoing first-lady City Mayor Jerry Treñas (Nacionalista Party) as winner in the city's congressional race with 101,304 votes against Atty. Raul Gonzalez Jr. (Lakas-Kampi-CMD) who got 76,479 votes.

Gonzalez also proclaimed outgoing Vice Mayor Jed Patrick Mabilog (Liberal Party) as the next city mayor with 80,651 votes defeating the elder Gonzalez (Lakas-Kampi-CMD)-who got 65,305 votes.

But Gonzalez is not conceding defeat and has ruled out recourses from public office.

"We accept the Comelec proclamation but we are not conceding because we know we were cheated," Gonzalez told the Inquirer in a telephone interview on Friday.

He said his family did not protest the proclamation "to save the tension and so that we can move on in the process."

However, the Gonzalez camp would protest a petition for manual count, claiming that the city exploited through computer-fraud cyberattacks.

The defeat of the Gonzalezes ended their vaunted dominance in the city's politics, which began in 1988 when the elder Gonzalez won the first of his three terms as representative of the city's lone congressional district. Raul is supposed to run again in 2016 and is on his second term.

Gonzalez, 70, has been in government service for more than four decades. He refused to host calls to retire.

FORGETTING POLLS RAVEN V. VILLAFUERTE/INQUIRER.NET/PHILIPPINES

The town of Lucban, Quezon, puts up its best facade again for the Pahiyas Festival. Multi-colored rapes made of coconut fiber adorn houses in the town for the Pahiyas, a feast held every year in honor of San Isidro de Labrador, patron saint of farmers.

Bolante loses bid for Capiz gov, campaign to clear name

CEBU CITY—GMTV REELECTIONIST Gov. Victor Tanco Eleventh (Party) won his reelection bid against the controversial former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante, the alleged architect of the P780-million fertilizer fund scam.

Bolante ran supposedly to clear his name by winning.

The other winners in the gubernatorial race in Western Visayas are Carlito Marquez (Lakas-Kampi-CMD) in Aklan, Pelagio Tesio (Lakas-Kampi-CMD) of Guimaras, Exequiel Javier (Lakas-Kampi-CMD) in Antique and Alfredo Marañon Jr. (United Negros Alliance) in Negros Occidental.

Marañon was proclaimed governor Wednesday night after waiting for over 72 hours due to delays in the transmission of returns from two areas.

In Central Visayas, the winners are reelectionist Gov. Emilio Macias II (Nacionalista People's Coalition) in Negros Oriental, former vice governor Gwendolyn Garcia (Uno-Cebu Lakas), Edgar Chatto (Lakas-Kampi-CMD) in Bohol and Orlando Fua Jr. (Lakas-Kampi-CMD) in Siquijor.

When the canvassing of the votes started, Garcia had lost in Cebu City, Mandaue City (Liberal Party), son of retired Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., was in a tight race with Davide running in Garcia's bailiwick.

However, Garcia prevailed when votes from Cebu's five district came in. Hector Rompot Jr., Felipe Cullen, Darryll Gerard Yanga, Carlo Ventura, Florence Hontoria, Alex Del, Shareen Magallanes, Chito Aragon, Eli Bugarin, Axel Arnaiz, Victor Gabre, Zita Ramon-Ros, Jose Gabkita and Rachel Arnaiz, Inquirer Visayas

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Gonzalez, 70, has been in government service for more than four decades. He refused to host calls to retire.

Rebs release voice tape of hostage mayor

BUTUAN CITY—THE GOOD news is that Talaga, Surigao del Sur Mayor Roberto Lozas and his four escorts are still alive.

The bad news is that the New People's Army (NPA) is still holding them hostage.

Lozas and several of his men were seized at a roadblock the rebels had set up along the highway in Marahayan, Compostela Valley on May 3.

Lozas was on his way to Davao City on visit one of his children, who was in a hospital, when the rebels flagged his convoy down.

Two of Lozas's men—his aide and driver—were set free shortly after the abduction but the rebels decided to keep him and his four escorts—Privates First Class Aldenoy Abao and Aiver Dizon of the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion and policemen PO2 Roy de Castro and PO1 Alan Dupit-anan.

Gn. Felipe Dio NPD Comrade Heredia command operating in Southern Mindanao, released voice clips of Lozas and his security escorts.

This was the first proof that the mayor and his escorts were alive, officials said.

The voice clips were recorded on May 12, according to Reed Aguarin II, the rebel group's spokesperson.

The NPA, Aguarin said, was hopeful that the voice clips will reach the families of the captives and reassure them that the hostages are in good health.

As apparently distressed voice, identified as Lozas's, said he and the other captives were in "good hands" and that the rebels had taken good care of them.

Speaking to Inquirer, Lozas said the rebels even provided him medicines. It was not clear what illness he was suffering from.

"We're not dead," another voice identified as that of Dr. Castro, said.

Aguarin said the NPA was not releasing the mayor yet as he faces charges "for possible people's crime." *Franklin Caligtasan and Germelino Lacorte, Inquirer Mindanao*

Erap, Pineda lawyer presses Among Ed ouster

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The lawyer of Pampanga governor-elect Lilia Pineda has filed a motion seeking to install her as governor in the last month in office of Gov. Eddie Panlilio on the basis of her victory in the 2007 election race.

Lawyer George Garcia, Pineda's election protest lawyer for a planned electoral protest by pardoned plunder convict Joseph Estrada, said he filed on Friday a motion asking the Commission on Elections en banc to issue a writ of execution for his client's assumption as governor.

The filing of the writ, he said, was a "matter of practice."

"If Pineda's [2007] commission stands, it's more of a procedural move so as not to weaken the case filed by the other party in the Supreme Court," said Garcia when asked why he proceeded on filing the motion when Pineda earlier declared that she would not assume the post before Panlilio's term expired.

Garcia made the move although Pineda beat Panlilio in the May 10 gubernatorial race.

Panlilio's lawyer, Sixto Brillantes, said he would file a petition before the high court on Monday "to avoid Among Ed (Pineda) due process."

The case is bound for the high court after the Comelec en banc, in a decision on May 4, upheld its second division's July 13 ruling that Pineda, wife of suspended "Jueteng" financier Rodolfo "Boy" Pineda and a close friend of President Macapagal-Arroyo, won the recount case by a revised lead of 2,011 votes.

Comelec Commissioner Rene Sarmiento dissented with the order on grounds that the majority did not count the 2,496 ballot scribbles with "Among" or "Ed" and it excluded some 12,000 votes without explaining fully the reason.

Term of endearment

In Pampanga, priests like Rupampangan, did not vote on the case.

The Bishop Parish Council for Responsible Voting (PCRV) has disagreed with the decision, urging Malacañang "under a moment of its moment."

Bishop's view

Auxiliary Bishop Pablo Virgilio David, chair of the PCRV in Pampanga, took provincial election supervisor Tonie Lantino to task by contesting the decision, which was opposed to his statement in 2007 that the Pampanga election was "not tainted by any fraud."

"[The year] 2007 is 2007 and we won. The year 2013 is 2013 and they won. I'm making it my last duty as governor to defend the true and honest will of the Kapampangans in 2007," Pineda said by telephone.

"I appeal to them not to change history or snatch it from Kapampangans who stood up for what is good," he said. *Benito Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

> "I appeal to them not to change history or snatch it from Kapampangans who stood up for what is good..."

YELLOW and white, the colors of the good governance crusade and Liberal Party in Pampanga, awaits the capitol where Gov. Eddie Panlilio has holed up to bar a Commission on Elections order canvassing hits four days before the elections on May 13. TREY R. VILLAFUERTE/INQUIRER.NET/PHILIPPINES

Southern Luzon poll results start coming in

RESIDENTS of Silangan, Benguet, join a community feast given by newly elected officials in the area. Models help prepare meat for the feast, a community thanksgiving activity intended to erase the negativity from the recently concluded elections.

Benguet town holds feast to purge election evil

BUNGUAN, BENGUET—After enduring the hot, dry season sun during the long queue for the country's first automated election on May 10, upland folk here were treated on Tuesday to a community meal, consisting of carabeef and pastillas.

The treat came from the winners of the local election led by reelected Mayor Benito Bitalin (Lakas-Kampi-CMD). Vice Mayor-elect Antonio Sacpa (Nacionalista Party) and the eight newly elected councilors of this upland town of 8,021 voters.

A carabeef and two pigs were slaughtered for the feast. But the animals were brought only early in the afternoon as community folk, who had been waiting to partake of a lunch meal, had to wait until 4 p.m. for an early dinner.

After dinner, Silangan election official Atty. Olivia Pinacpinac declared the newly elected officials.

"It has been the tradition, this town won't just be a 'Mayoral' but a community meal to promote reconciliation and harmony again between and among the various candidates who might have verbally hurt or offended each other during the campaign," said Bunso Sangpoon, the town's civil registrar.

A local cleric, or mambunong, offered the sacrificial animals to the gods and spirits, invoking them to continue to bless the community and cleanse all the negative impact of verbal attacks and actions done candidates had exchanged during the political campaign.

Silangan, a farming town of more than 11,000 residents, experienced almost similar glitches and discomforts, which other towns in various polling areas in the country experienced on Monday. The town is about 40 kilometers from Baguio City.

Election results could not be transmitted from the polling centers to the community server at the town hall because many of the broadband-based transmission gadgets would not work and many voters had to endure heat, chaos and hunger as they waited for at least three hours for their turn to vote.

"This pantukoon feast would free us from all our sacrifices and discomforts on Election Day so we could move on again as a community ...," Sangpoon said.

Maurice Mirkarim, Inquirer Northern Luzon

RESULTS OF LOCAL RACES ARE starting to pile up in several areas in southern Luzon although at much slower rates than what was expected from the country's first automated elections.

Some of the results were surprises, while others came as like a cloud of doubt.

In Masbate, the days when only two families ruled the province were wiped out as a new power was not belonging to either the Kho or Espinosa clan was elected and proclaimed winner.

Rep. Rhodora Seachon-Lutcher won as governor in the island province known for its violent elections and an insurgency that defied government efforts to contain.

In Calauan, Laguna, the family of ex-mayor Antonio Sanchez, who is currently serving a prison term for rape and murder, is celebrating a victory as passion with the election of one of Sanchez's sons as vice mayor.

Allan Jun V. Sanchez, eldest son of Sanchez, won over his rival by only 50 votes.

Pagcor chief's son

In Los Baños, Laguna, the son of the chair of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) was declared mayor-elect amid questions over whether he was a resident of the town.

Anthony Crisanto, who previously run for a position in Makati City and lost, was proclaimed winner in the Los Baños mayoral race. A group of residents of the town sought his disqualification earlier for not being a resident of the town.

Genaro Sto. Isabel his reelection in Los Baños as the campus of Trace College, a school that the Crisantos own.

Suspicious vehicles

Some of Genaro's rivals and residents of Los Baños said they planned to ask the Comelec to declare Crisanto of disqualification in the town amid what they said were signs of massive cheating and fraud.

Hours before polling personnel opened in Los Baños last May 10, at least 800 ballots took to the streets after hearing that at least 30 buses and 50 public utility jeep were inside Trace College believed to be carrying flying voters.

Rayzor Mandegod, Genaro's chief of staff, said earlier that the vehicles were carrying poll watchers of lawyer Nicole Geronimo, brother of Anthony who lost in his bid to become mayor of Makati City.

Mandegod said the watchers were brought to Trace College for training and final briefing.

Manhandled

Fr. Saul Gerzis, overseer of the election watchdog Bantay Dayo, said one volunteer of his group was manhandled by police while helping check reports of flying voters being bused in allegedly by Genuino's camp.

In Palawan, Rep. Abraham Kahlil Mitra was proclaimed governor-elect despite a case pending at the Supreme Court over whether he was qualified to run for governor being a resident of Puerto Princesa City, which is classified as a highly urbanized city that does not elect a governor.

Mitra has submitted documents in short he resides in Aborlan in northern Palawan. But his opponents pointed to what they said were glaring discrepancies in documents that the address he listed in his certificate of candidacy was a room in a farm house that wasn't fit for human domicile.

Case at SC

The Comelec en banc had ruled Mitra to be disqualified, but Mitra's camp elevated the case to the Supreme Court. It is pending there.

The Comelec also proclaimed Clara Reyes, wife of outgoing governor Joel T. Reyes, as the governor-elect. Governor Reyes lost in the second district's congressional race.

Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn, who will serve a third term, was proclaimed on Thursday. *Karen Lapitan, Redemption Ardo and Ramada Pena, Inquirer Southern Luzon, and Jean Broderik Tolosa, Correspondent*

Bet loses to ex-husband, relatives beat relatives

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—In densely wooded Iglesia ha local power, a husband defeated his wife, a brother beat out his brother and cousin over a cousin.

In Aklanon town in Aklan, incumbent Mayor Katheryne Delmar-Hebil (Liberal Party) was defeated by her estranged husband, former mayor Jeremy "Bulbog" Hebil (Lapiang Manggagawa).

But this also meant that the uninterrupted rule of the Hebils in the town would continue.

Brother vs brother

In Tibiao town in Antique, Walther Lim (Lakas-Kampi-CMD) defeated his three rivals, including his brother Joel Lim (Bileng Ang Bugsong Liposon).

In Iloilo, reelectionist Rep. Niel Tupas Jr. (LP) defeated his first cousin Rolex Suva Gov. Boboi Tupaño for representative of the province's fifth congressional district.

Representative Tupas' younger brother, Niel Tupas III (Liberal Party), also defeated first cousin Felix Sotto Tupas (Lakas-Kampi-CMD) for mayor of Barotac Viejo town.

Winning family

But in Barotac town, the Salcedo family has preserved their dominance in the town's politics with the victory of Nepthali Salcedo as mayor with his running mate and son Reginald Jr., as vice mayor.

In other electoral contests, dentist-former mayor Rhoda "Freida" Sotomo, lost to incumbent Mayor Victor Fernandez in the mayoral race in Leon town in Iloilo.

Sotomo is detained in Cebu, accused of killing Aklan broadcaster Herson Hinoton in 2004.

POLITICAL tension in Iloilo City is highlighted by a prayer rally held by supporters of a candidate for mayor who are protesting the delay in results and alleged fraud in the counting of votes in the city's mayoral race.

In Miagao town, rebuilt seven times by Moro, incumbent Mayor Genaro Tuwaldo and Vice Mayor John Yap just switched positions after the election.

Yap won the mayoral race against Freddie Ranalan and Joel Gelito, while Tuwaldo won as vice mayor against Abraham Bunding and Edwin Pelayo.

Ex-Kampi men

In Capiz, four former candidates of the administration's Rehabilitar ng Mamayang Pilipino (Ramp) in the 2007 elections have emerged victorious.

Aldo Gilbas, former provincial chair of Kampi in Capiz, is now elected mayor of Roxas City.

Kampi is a political party formed by President Macapagal-Arroyo's relatives and allies.

Gilbas defeated incumbent Mayor Ulpiano Bermejo, a former Liberal Party (LP) stalwart and now with the Ugnayan Ekonomiya (UNE) of former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante, alleged architect of the P500-million fertilizer fund scam.

LP bets

Gilbas's former party mate, Teresa Aguelles, was elected Sanggunang Barangay and 2007 member of Roxas City while Rodolfo Ibero Abraldes was also elected Sangguniang Panlalawigan 2007 member in the first district of Capiz. The two were in favor of the late Agustin Montilla of Municipio Cuisel, Roxas City.

A former city vice mayor, Gilbas ran for congressman in the first district in 2007 election but lost to incumbent Rep. Antonio del Rosario. The two currently belong to the Liberal Party.

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Aplus METRO
Editor Alexander S. Lllanday

BAY WATCH

Unique walk under water

By Tina S. Santos

IMAGINE COMING FACE TO face with thousands of fishes and stingrays as you get the feel of walking at the bottom of the sea.

Filipinos may now enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime experience with the opening of Aquaventure Voyage, one of Manila Ocean Park's (MOP) newest attractions as this fun palace by the bay.

Using a special helmet that allows one to breathe freely and naturally, the unique diving system allows people to interact with 4,000 fish of 200 different species as they take a 18-minute walk on the ocean floor of the park's largest aquarium.

"This activity is designed to introduce one to the environment of the underwater world without having to go to faraway beaches," said Arnel Cortez, MOP's vice president for sales and marketing.

New adventure

The MOP thought of bringing in the new underwater adventure to this city because many people wanted to know if they could dive in the marine park's largest aquarium, Cortez said. The experience was made possible through the help of a Japanese group which has long been doing helmet diving in Cebu, he added.

First, a diver's helmet is attached to an air tube linked to a mechanical air compressor and filter system on the surface.

"The seafloor air is filtered and then pumped down to the diver," Cortez said. "This makes underwater walking possible and safe even for nonswimmers."

Not everyone, however, can try try the experience, Cortez quickly said.

"This is not recommended for those with heart or lung problems, asthma and other respiratory ailments, neck trouble or surgery, as well as those who are pregnant and claustrophobic," she said.

Also, a diver should be at least five feet tall and of excellent body built since the helmet weighs about 35 pounds above water and seven pounds under.

Waiver

Guests also have to sign a waiver and undergo a briefing before the actual dive.

"They are briefed on how to behave with a variety of fish surrounding them underwater. They are also given an overview of what to do or what to expect during an emergency and how the dive master will take care of them," Cortez told Inquirer.

She cited however,as one possible emergency situation, but was quick to assure the public that in such cases, apart from having a pressure in one's ears, the air in the helmet is good for one more minutes.

"The diver can climb up but since the dive helmet allows them to walk only about 20 meters away from the main of the 12-foot deep aquarium. We don't allow them to go very far. But more than the air, our crews are to it that the guests don't panic," she said.

Only two guests at a time are allowed to go aquarium diving, accompanied by well-

Barangay league seeks postponement of October elections

By Beverly T. Mainstrial

MEMBERS OF A BARANGAY league composed of village officials all over the country yesterday said they are seeking the approval of Congress to defer the barangay elections scheduled to October to save on resources.

Liga ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas (LnB) president Edenjudge Echivarri said in a statement yesterday that at the opening of the 15th Congress, they will seek the House's approval of a proposal to hold the elections to a later date.

Echivarri, son of Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Echivarri, said that they want the incoming administration to save the resources to address more pressing problems instead of bankrolling the barangay elections.

He said that among the concerns that needed the new administration's attention for now are the droughts in the countryside and job opportunities for the poor.

The young Echivarri said the LnB only wanted to help the incoming administration by refusing over-stay duty.

The last barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections were held in Oct. 29, 2007.

At that time, the 14th Congress tried twice to reset the barangay elections to 2006, but the moves did not succeed.

METROBRIEFS

John Lloyd files motion on tax evasion case

ACTOR John Lloyd Cruz has asked a Quezon City court to withhold the issuance of an arrest warrant against him pending the resolution of a motion for determination of probable cause in connection with his tax evasion case. In a motion for judicious determination of probable cause lodged in the court yesterday, Cruz asked the court to issue an order requiring the prosecution to allege and submit the records of the preliminary investigation of the case. Through his legal counsel, Atty. Tony Perez, the actor also sought to defer and/or recall any warrant against him. Cruz asked that his motion be treated as lodged as of Feb. 9 as he was not probable cause to order him and the corroborative documents. The actor is facing charges of violation of provisions of the Tax Reform Act of 1997 for his alleged failure and refusal to present his books of accounts and other accounting records for 2004 to the Bureau of Internal Revenue. **Julie M. Aurelio**

Not lucky this time

A SUSPENDED Mati, who reelected down governor when she conceded in the election in May, is now out on bail today (See Dino Princeton Lagot, 34, of Magsaysay, Cabarroguis, is now facing robbery charges filed by the National Bureau of Investigation based on the complaint of Mary Jane Ong, of No. Cruz Manila. According to Special Investigator Dennis Francisco of the NBI Special Task Force, he was identified via his ID he carried working similarly at the third floor of the building where the agent lived. Investigators said the suspect looked on familiar to her. Through questioning, the agent became more suspicious and brought the suspect to barangay officials. Found in the suspect's possession were items belonging to Ong. According to Ong, she and her family had filed a complaint in the NBI after their apartment was broken into in January. **Tina C. Santos**

Muntinlupa fire leaves 4,500 families homeless

By Nino Calleja

SOME 4, 500 FAMILIES LOST their homes yesterday after a fire raged for seven hours in a residential area of Muntinlupa City, destroying P80 million worth of property.

(For photos see page A11.)

The blaze also spewed thick smoke, prompting authorities to close entry points to the Southern Luzon Expressway.

Chief Insp. Roy Agojo, Muntinlupa fire marshall, said the fire started around 4 a.m. in one house at the Cuerpina Compound in Barangay Cupang. In an hour, it quickly spread to several houses nearby and reached over to the adjacent Sherry compound.

Outside help

Muntinlupa's Bureau of Fire Protection department summoned firefighters and fire trucks in nearby cities to help put out the fire.

Firefighters placed the fire under control at around 9:30 a.m., and finally put it out two hours later.

Agojo said the fire destroyed 900 houses. The victims were later evacuated to a covered court in the barangay.

Most houses in the area were made of light materials, making it difficult for firefighters to control the spread of the fire.

The passageways to the houses are so fire were also narrow that firemen had to climb on roofs to be able to get near the scene, Agojo added.

Slowdown

While the fire was raging, thick smoke rendered the expressway, slowing down the traffic on both northbound and southbound lanes of the Southern Luzon Expressway from Alabang in Muntinlupa to Magallanes in Makati City.

Billy Sarita, radio operator of the Skyway Patrol Group, said the entry points to the southbound lanes of Bicutan, Alabang and Sucat, and the northbound lane of Villamor were closed to motorists from 7:46 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

"We wanted to avoid accidents because of the black smoke," Sarita said.

Fire investigators have yet to determine what caused the fire.

QC rival candidates seek new manual audit of poll results

By Julie M. Aurelio

RIVAL CANDIDATES IN THE local election in Quezon City yesterday called on the Commission on Elections and its partner, Smartmatic-TIM, to conduct a more transparent auditing of poll results, saying they doubted the outcome to Record the pulse of the people.

Asking for another random manual audit (RMA) at precinct results, mayoral candidate Miller Gutierrez, who lost to mayor-elect Herbert Bautista of the Liberal Party, said they received different reports from areas that some of the votes appeared not to have been counted.

"We all agreed to be reasonable and give a chance to the Comelec as an institution. We are only asking for an audit, the minimum five percents per district," said Bolante in a joint press conference with the other candidates.

The group claimed they were not told about the RMA the Comelec conducted at the City Hall's Session Hall, and not at the precincts.

Stakeholders

"As stakeholders of the [election] process, we were not duly notified of the conduct of the RMA. Had we were we given the opportunity to observe and witness the same. Considering the statistical anomalies of the voters' turnout, as well as the irregularities in the votes of Senators and Governor, our will and the Comelec to conduct the RMA with due notice to us and in our presence or that of our lawyers," the group said in a statement.

Gutierrez's votes were tallied at 126,847 against Bautista's 500,501.

Apart from Gutierrez, among those who attended the press conference were other mayoral bets like Johnny Chang and his running mate Raul Roposas, Rep. Jesse Robredo, congressional candidates Representative Tan of District 1 and Jose de Castro of District 4, and candidates for councilors Bam Aquino, Miguel de Dios, Andrew Bautista, Mike Gonzales and John Lozada.

The group said the supposed 80 percent voter turnout in Quezon City was impossible, given the lines at clustered precincts.

"We were flooded with reports of heavy queuing under the hot sun that eventually led to voters falling out of line and going home without voting," it said in a statement.

Shift

Tan, a daughter of Ignacio Lozada Jr., who ran against the Liberal Party's Rep. Mitchell Yenghong Co Hodge, said the Comelec cannot just drop manual counting with the rollout shift to an automated system.

"If there is a new system, you can't just do away with parallel testing or counting. It's dangerous to do that. Anything can happen," she noted, adding: "I'm not saying there was cheating, but there results are not the actual results."

For his part, De Castro, who ran against congressman-elect and incumbent Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr., said his opponent's margin must not be that it looked like he (De Castro) "did nothing" during the campaign period.

Janssen and Joining congressional bet Marisa Belmonte said they would file a letter of appeal at the Bureau of Registrations for an investigation on the matter.

"We are still congressmen until June 30. We are not after winning or losing, but this is a legal procedure for the next elections," she said.

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Unique walk under water

From page A10

trained and experienced divers.

"We allow only four people at a time inside our main aquarium—the two guests, the dive master and the safety officer who is on standby for oxygen. We don't want the fish to feel a bit stressed with too many people inside the tank," Cortes explained. "The health and safety of the fish have always been our first priority."

But how safe are the humans from possible attacks of marine animals, like the sting rays?

"The stingrays, at least the ones we have in the tank, have been with us for years already, so they have already adapted to the environment. All of their are hand-fed, so they are used to humans around them," she said. "What we do before the aquarium dive is to feed them first, so when a visitor goes in to dive, they are no longer hungry."

Cortes stressed that customers are not allowed to feed the fish or the stingrays.

"Sometimes, stingrays get very excited, and if a person is not notified or an experienced diver, he may not know how to react when a stingray comes too close to him. For safety purposes, guests are not allowed to feed them," she explained, adding that sharks are built in carnivore aquarium.

Cortes explained how Aquaventure differs from scuba diving.

"In scuba diving, you have to go through a certification process and there is a limit to the maximum amount of time you can stay underwater, which is about 20 to 30 minutes," the MOP official said.

In Aquaventure, one morning is necessary and one can stay for a longer period of time underwater, Cortes said, but quickly added that the activity at the ocean park is only for 10 minutes to accommodate more guests.

"You get to experience undersea adventure without getting your face and hair wet. You can even wear glasses or contact lenses during your underwater voyage," she added.

The Aquaventure voyage costs P995, a relatively affordable price compared to conventional diving.

"What we offer is cheaper because except for towels, we provide guests with all the necessary gear—the wet suit, aqua shoes, gloves. Basically, you don't have to bring anything. It's just like going to the mall, only you can go diving," Cortes said.

VENTURE at the Ocean Park along Manila Bay can now have an interactive experience with marine life in one of its biggest aquariums.

NO NEED to make an out-of-town trip to have an underwater adventure, just a visit to the Manila Ocean Park.

"THE LAST PLACE YOU WANT TO SEND PCOS machines to this BS Filipino-Americans don't vote. They just talk a lot and complain a lot, and if you bring a PCOS machine there, suddenly half a million of them will be IT experts. And they still won't show up on election day, so forget it."

TEDDY LOZADA, April 2010

GLOBAL Pinoy

Lito Gary Lino

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Getting old gracefully in the US

By Edna Bangan-Salcedo
Correspondent

She may be in the winter of her life, but she seems oblivious to the loneliness of old age, opting to remember the many beautiful summers she spent in the Philippines

GRANDMOTHER FOR ALL SEASONS She is vision-challenged, but Lola Upeng's world brightens up every time she is drawn some size machines, cuddling her children and grandchildren are only too willing to do. If only to keep her up and about.

NEW JERSEY—Guadalupe Madrella-Bunag is 86 but she does not look her age at all. Her skin is taut; her hair is still mostly black; and her body is trim. Why, she does not even sound her age! Her voice has not lost its lilt nor her laugh its giggle. But when she gets up to walk, then most of her 86 years become oppressive. Not because she is weak and feeble, but because she is vision-challenged.

Despite a cataract surgery, Lola Upeng's eyesight is now almost at the opposite end of the ideal 20/20. She has to rely on a walker or an available arm for better and safer mobility. Yet, this does not deter her from living her life to the full.

Every day she boards a bustling bus to go to the Millennium Adult Day Care, close to where she lives in Montclair, California. This decades-old facility has been designed to provide the elderly with physical fitness and recreational activities that make aging a less intimidating, less lonely experience.

There, Lola Upeng has found new friends and together they trade stories of long ago, play games gleefully or try their hands at crafts-making. Sometimes, a poet or two in the group strike a romantic chord and beautiful music begins to play for them, prodding all over again that love is truly the most potent human force, the ultimate age-defying and energy-giving tonic of all time.

Love letters in a time of war

"So, has the bakeryana funny widow also found cause to lie on her light thematic toe again?" asked some friends, winking at her. "No," she said smiling, but when the name of another man from her past came up on the conversation, by unanimous consent, she deservedly relived the summers of her life.

With amazing mental clarity, Lola Upeng walked back through the corridors of time and picked out scenes in stories of her elders as antics from a compelling life journey: the children, youthful days and great grandchildren listened with interest and respect to the awesome, she adorably plucked from an extraordinarily dusty memory.

"Yes," she said excitedly. "Our pen pal(s) (as love letters for us) for six years. He was such a religious fellow, always invoking God's help in everything, even in his letters to me. When the Japs started to have those letters delivered to me in wartime it was something I still involve ask him about. (Sinulat.) Did you say he now lives in New York? Perhaps in our could talk to each other sometime."

"Oh, but Mama, his wife is still living," reminded one daughter. She beamed a mannerism smile. There she grew pensive as she remembered how that war interrupted her girlhood.

Painful experiences

"When World War II broke out in 1941, I was only 13 (by birth)," she began. Her voice trailing off as she recovered some painful episodes of those difficult times. Although she was the youngest in the family, Lola Upeng experienced extreme lack and deprivation.

"Have you, ask one of all important commodity sought after by everyone then and consumed quickly. It perked up the blandness of rice, oftentimes the only food we had."

Her schooling, too, was greatly affected. It was impossible to focus on anything. Dog fights in the air, bombs dropping away sirens wailing, warnings of an attack, and the fearful scampering to crowded dug-outs for safety rendered their days and nights horrible for several years.

Being required to learn the adversary's language in school aggravated the students' confusion and fear. Memories of unspeakable brutalities suffered by people they knew left painful imprints on her mind. To this day she is convinced that "war is not only ugly; it is evil."

Life's passion

She will never be able to grasp the utter irony in the Imperialistic doctrine that peace is sometimes only achievable through war and vice versa. Lola Upeng empathizes with innocent people in war zones everywhere and the studies and readings on the issue.

Despite all the obstacles in her way, Lola Upeng eventually became a teacher. Modeling young minds became her life's passion and mission. She was so relentless in her pursuit of education that she filled her summers with school work.

She proudly spent the months of April and May at the University of Manila where she earned credits to upgrade from elementary teacher's certificate to a bachelor of science degree in education. She completed her master's degree at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

In other words, she hardly had any break from school.

She was a mature student of her time, who dared to be a working mother and succeeded in doing so. Her five surviving daughters (all well-educated and now well-heeled, to boot) proudly acknowledge their parents' accomplishment, showing them their appreciation in countless and invisible ways. The older couple's birthdays and wedding anniversaries were always cause for big, loud family celebrations.

Now that Lola Upeng is widowed, the mother is double-dose of doggedly devotion from her ever-growing family. She is the beloved, genuinely respected matriarch whose gentle example inspires every member to strive for life's best. At the same time, she also reigns her family's light-hearted regard.

There is this standing family joke her children love to tell about her. "Mama can no longer read print but she can see the tiniest mail symbols on the dot machines!"

Family surprise

Armed with this observation, everyone more creative on Birthday Wish. They hatched a surprise party aboard a tour bus! That means, the machines and other games were made available to Lola Upeng and her 50 guests all through the five-hour trip from Los Angeles to Las Vegas on Sept. 16, 2009!

Oh, wasn't she delirious with excitement!

It is such loving gestures that consistently warm Lola Upeng's heart. She may be in the winter of her life but she seems oblivious to the loneliness and the cold of old age. The memories of those long Philippine summers when school and home claimed all of her time and energy are enough to make her tired eyes glisten with contentment.

Reaping rewards

She is well aware of how it was all worth it. Yes, isn't she now reaping the rewards? She is one 19-grandmother in America who may never have need of a roaming home because at least one of her children is committed to taking personal care of her.

Lola Upeng is truly blessed. Throughout her life, she devoted to her the Filipino culture has what it takes to weave story upon story of success and happiness. In this hemmed valley of faith in God, education, hard work, family closeness, and personal devotion are the fine threads that overlay multicolor. Whether her progeny will continue to nurture these values as they bring up their own children on foreign soil is a question Lola Upeng must be pondering. Only time will be able to tell the answer.

It's a crime to be an illegal alien in Arizona

IMFO
Leandro Santos Tancinco

THE FILIPINO IMMIGRANT community is not spared from the fear brought about by the Arizona's anti-immigrant law. This recent legislation makes an illegal alien a criminal.

Benita arrested the United States as a fiancé visa holder. She was petitioned by Mark, a US citizen 10 years older than she is. When she began living with him in their small condo unit in Los Angeles, she found out that something was amiss in his activities.

She saw how Mark met different people and handed them small packages in exchange for cash. She later confronted Mark and he admitted selling marijuana. He also had a marijuana plantation.

To avoid getting into trouble, Santa decided to leave him. She went to Arizona to live with another guy.

Mark and Santa were never married. Under the law, fiancé visa holders should marry their petitioners in 90 days or else they may obtain their green cards. Since Santa did not marry Mark, she was prosecuted from obtaining the green card.

While in Arizona, Santa met Philip, another US citizen. They later got married and now have two children, both minors. Santa is still an undocumented alien because the immigration law does not provide a way for fiancé visa holders to obtain a green card except through their US citizen petitioners.

With the Arizona anti-immigrant law, Santa is at risk of being taken into custody any time. Unless this law is rescinded and a comprehensive immigration law is enacted in Congress, she lives in fear of being deported.

'Reasonable suspicion'

Illegal immigrants are not criminals, except in Arizona. Gov. Jan Brewer signed into law the Anti-Immigration Enforcement Act, or SB 1070 making illegal immigrants criminals.

According to this law, a state or local police may investigate the status of an individual based on "reasonable suspicion" that a person is in the country illegally. This new law is due to take effect sometime in August unless the constitutionality of the law is successfully challenged in court.

This law gives law enforcement officers the authority to stop and question people about their immigration status based on "how they look." Although the provisions of the law specifically prohibits the use of race or nationality as the sole basis for immigration check, still the question remains as what the standards for "reasonable suspicion" are.

There are no racial neutral criteria for determining who are reasonably suspicious. Style, tone and any "unlawful" is a mystery. One may be questioned based on appearance, strong foreign accent or simply just looking different. Ultimately all minorities may be racially profiled. A police officer may stop and question any Filipino in Arizona who is simply driving his car or walking through the mall about his immigration status pursuant to the new law. This is nerve-crushing, from among immigrants, especially the DWIs.

Broken, outdated law

Different civil rights group and concerned citizens have criticized this legislation and actually caught the attention of many legislators. There is a realization that the immigration system needed a fix not from individual states but from the federal government which has sole jurisdiction over the country's immigration.

Last week, the New York Times featured a story about a member of the US military, Lt. Kenneth Tecelion, a Philippine-born US citizen. He was previously deployed in Iraq and now wants to serve another tour of duty either in Afghanistan or Iraq.

Lieutenant Tecelion may be courageous in fighting terrorists as a soldier but is apprehensive about the fate of his spouse. Wilma is an undocumented alien who is not able to legalize her status because of a previous violation of an immigration law.

Since Wilma is a TNVI, she runs the risk of being deported to Manila despite the fact that she is married to a US citizen. Just like Santa, she is left with no legal recourse to obtain the green card because the law clearly prohibits them from doing so.

Wait for new law

These are among the many provisions of law that need to be amended through a comprehensive immigration law.

Since the enforcement of immigration law becomes the focus of the Department of Homeland Security, a significant number of undocumented aliens are being put into removal proceedings. There are very limited provisions in the immigration law that provide paths to legalization. Those notoriously ingrained are the immigrant families who have US citizen children and whose lives may be ruined by separation as a result of the deportation of one of the parents.

The final if deeply frustrating advising those who have no other legal recourse but to "wait for the new immigration law" to be passed in Congress. The dysfunctional immigration system is proving to be fatal. 11 immigration policies need fundamental changes unless the US government finds it practical to mass deport 12 million undocumented aliens.

Benita may be reached at law@tancinco.com or at 8877177.

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

17 dead in fresh violence in Bangkok

BANGKOK—RAGING VIOLENCE IN THE THAI capital claimed three more lives on Saturday as gunfire and explosions echoed around tense streets where there have been pitched street battles between troops and protesters.

"The current situation is almost full civil war," said Anuporn Prompan, a key leader of the pro-reform faction in the "Red Shirts."

"The situation is under control and has been resolved in many spots but the military operation will continue because there are many things to do to restore normality," government spokesperson Dusdee Wirunsuppagorn said.

Numerous M-79 grenades were fired at security forces to **various areas on the fringes** of the protest site overnight, he said.

The rally site, where demonstrators sleep on mats on the ground and listen to speeches and music blasted from giant speakers, stretches for several square kilometers. It is fortified with barricades and tires.

According to the official Thai **news emergency center**, the death toll from Friday's clashes was 16, all of them Thais, and most of them victims of gunshots. Another person had died on Thursday night.

"The bullets keep raining as street fighting was raging to the city until midnight," said an official from the center.

The official told dpa not include the three victims seen by AFP.

A PROTESTER apparently shot by sniper fire during a stand-off with military suffers a massive head wound on May 19 in Bangkok. AFP

Emergency services said 141 people had been wounded, three of them foreigners from Canada, Burma (Myanmar) and Poland. **Their condition was unknown.**

The Nation 24 television station earlier said one of its journalists—Cameroon—had been shot and gravely wounded. **Two Thai reporters were also hurt,** their employers said.

Thousands of antigovernment protesters have encircled by turned a large area of central Bangkok into occupied territory for two months, crippling an upscale retail and hotel district and disrupting daily life for ordinary residents in the city of about 12 million people.

The subway system and elevated rain lines were shut on Saturday for safety reasons after the violence.

The mostly poor and working class Reds say the government is elitist and undemocratic because it came to power in a 2006 military-backed vote after a court ruling ousted elected allies of their boss, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Thaksin was removed in a 2006 coup and lives in self-imposed exile to avoid a jail term for corruption.

The latest unrest began Thursday night after Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva shelved a plan to hold early elections because the protesters refused to disperse. AFP

WORLD BRIEFS

Boy in Libyan plane crash told parents dead

UTRECHT—The Dutch boy who was the sole survivor of a Libyan plane crash has been told his parents were killed and will return home on Saturday, an investigation said the pilot reported no faults before the jet went down. Dutch foreign ministry spokesperson Christoph Prinsenberg he told AFP yesterday that 5-year-old Ruben van Assouw would be accompanied home "by his uncle and aunt and the doctor treating him." They arrived in Libya's Tripoli at 10 a.m. for a destination in the Netherlands the ministry refused to disclose. The boy's aunt and uncle said that Ruben has been told his parents and 11-year-old brother died on Wednesday's crash that killed a total of 103 people. "We have explained to Ruben exactly what happened. He knows that his parents and his brother are dead," they said in a statement read to reporters in Tripoli. The statement said the boy was doing well under the circumstances and had seen the flowers and messages of support sent to him. AFP

Obama attacks finger-pointing by oil industry

WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama on Friday angrily assailed the finger-pointing among the three companies involved in the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico as a "ridiculous spectacle," even as his own administration came under criticism for failing to do enough to prevent a recommended calamity, to remarks during an appearance in the Rose Garden, Obama also criticized what he called the "crazy relationship" between the government and the oil industry that has existed for decades, even into his own administration. He acknowledged that federal agencies had failed to ensure that safety and environmental standards were being met and announced a thorough review of the oversight process. The president's comments reflected impatience by the White House over BP's failure to stop the leaking of oil into the gulf and stems that growing public ire could soon overwhelm the administration. White House officials have been meeting daily about how to respond to the spill, but amid reports that the administration may have been hasty in issuing drilling permits to BP and other oil companies, Obama summoned top cabinet officials to the Oval Office on Friday to discuss how to increase the government's response. NYT

Iraq double bomb attack kills 25 at football match

MOSUL, Iraq—A double bomb attack at a football match in northern Iraq, which was unprotected by security forces, killed 25 people on Friday in the second incident this week to cause mass casualties. The explosions, which also left 120 people wounded as according to hospital officials, occurred at around 6 p.m. in Tal Afar, 260 km north of Baghdad, a police officer told AFP. The incident came five days after a devastating series of attacks in five cities blamed on al-Qaeda killed 110 people, in the deadliest violence this year. AFP

Roman Polanski hit by fresh sex allegations

LOS ANGELES—FUGITIVE filmmaker Roman Polanski was hit by fresh sex crime allegations on Friday by a British actress who claimed the director "forced himself" upon her just after her 16th birthday.

Polanski, who is fighting extradition to the United States in his sentencing in his 1978 child sex case, was accused by actress Charlotte Lewis, 42, of abusing her at his apartment in Paris nearly 30 years ago.

In a press conference at the Beverly Hills offices of attorney Gloria Allred, Lewis said she was speaking out to counter suppositions from Polanski's legal team that his earlier victim was an isolated incident.

"I am also a victim of Roman Polanski. He sexually abused me in the worst possible way when I was just 16 years old," Lewis said in a prepared statement.

Allred said Lewis had given statements to Los Angeles police and prosecutors which she hoped would be taken into consideration if Polanski were extradited back to the United States from Switzerland, where he is under house arrest.

"It is very important that the district attorney and the Swiss authorities are armed with this information as they decide Mr. Polanski's fate," said Lewis, who had a minor role in Polanski's 1986 period flop "Pirates."

Mrs. Polanski knew I was only 16 years old when he met me and forced himself upon me in his apartment in Paris. He took advantage of me and I have lived with the effects of his behavior ever since it occurred," she said.

"All I want is justice," added Lewis, best known for her leading role opposite Eddie Murphy in the 1986 adventure comedy "The Golden Child."

Although Polanski, 76, was accused of "forcing himself" upon Lewis, the actress pointedly did not use the word "rape." "The words we used are the words we used," Allred said when asked about the actress's allegations. AFP

LEWIS, now 42.

Man draws death in China kindergarten attack

BEIJING—A court in eastern China on Saturday sentenced a man to death for killing 29 children and three teachers at a kindergarten at the end of April, state media reported. The Taixing Intermediate Court found Xu Fuyuan guilty of intentional homicide after a half-day open trial. Xinhua reported. Xu told the court his mother was to vent his rage against society. It was not clear whether Xu would appeal. Twenty-nine children and three adults were injured when Xu attacked them with a knife, at Zhongxin Kindergarten in Taixing city on April 29. A string of school attacks has shocked China in recent weeks. Police have been under increased pressure to carry at school compounds and nearby residential communities. AFP

P&G fights allegations Pampers cause burns

NEW YORK—Procter & Gamble sought on Friday to squelch allegations that some of its top-selling diapers are causing chemical burns, describing assertions in a lawsuit against the firm as "completely false." The Cincinnati, Ohio, firm is battling a lawsuit and a vigorous Facebook campaign over accusations its "Ultra-Dry" equipped Pampers contain harmful chemicals. Procter's baby products represent around $14 billion in sales each year. AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ UP downs Perpetual Help /A28

Sunday SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Molmisa
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

■ UST battles Lyceum in V-League s'finals /A29

Fil-Ams dominate PBL-Liga draft day

By Jasmine W. Payo

FOREIGN PLAYERS WITH FILIPINO ROOTS emerged as the top three rookie picks in the Tournament of the Philippines, the resurrected league recently formed by the Philippine Basketball League (PBL) and Liga Filipinas that started on June 2.

The Fastmax Gentiles Warriors, the team owned by boxing icon Manny Pacquiao, made 22-year-old Clifford Hodge as the No. 1 pick among 45 hopefuls in the Rookie Tournament yesterday at the Philsports Complex in Pasig City.

AgriVenture Inc./CIA ordered Kelly Bery's second overall, while Pharex tabbed Stanley Pringle third to beef up their rosters in the new tournament set to field at least nine teams.

The 6-foot-5 Hodge, described as "a versatile and athletic player" from Hawaii, traces his Filipino lineage to his mother, who hails from Cebu.

Magnolia and Cebu rounded up the four PBL squads that joined the tournament that will serve as the backbone of the PBA's proposed developmental league.

Teams from Cebu, Laguna, Sikuate Oriental and Mandaue complete the participating Liga members.

"This is the first joint project of the PBL and Liga and we're confident this would be the start of something good for Philippine basketball, especially to its many stakeholders," said PBL executive director Butch Maranga.

Liga Filipinas' Butch Antonio said teams from Taguig and Pampanga have yet to confirm their participation.

PBL powerhouses Hyper Textbuster and Tanduay Ubo opted to see action in the next conference in October.

Interbrand, which topped the recent PBL tilt last March, also bagged off since its core players from NCAA champion San Sebastian will suit up for the varsity league next month.

Pharex, the PBL runner-up last conference, enlisted two more Filipino-Americans in Jesse Anchanty and John Smith in the succeeding rounds.

Laguna robbed former Letran player Jomar Datang, before selecting Manila Antonio in the next round.

Mauricio Dacuycuy selected Lance Brevesis, while Cebu chose Rhaver Pelonario to wrap up the first round.

Llamados derail Express

Peek, Belasco debut for Sta. Lucia; Beermen target eighth straight

By Mueang R. Castillo

PARAÑO CITY—DEBBIE ACE EXTENDED its winning ways in the PBA Fiesta Conference, marking short work of Air21, 83-71, last night in a road game presented by Phoenix Fuels at the Pueblo Sports Center here.

Back-to-back breakaway slams by Cliff Bruno assisted the cast as the Llamados took a couple of 13-point spreads late in the second period before improving their third-running record to 6-3.

Chris Ross Miguel (9-11) and Talk 'N Text (7-2) have better records than the Llamados.

Bruno, the Llamados' second import in the tournament after Lawrence Hicks, scored a PBA career-high 20 points to pace Derby Ace, who continued to miss Kerby Raymundo.

Coach Teng Cuino could not make the trip and his assistant Rodel Hualemes called the shots for the Express, who took an eighth straight loss in a tail-ending 1-9 card.

Air21 also did not suit up Wynne Arboleda, the squad's long-time starting quarterback whose season-long suspension that was supposed to end by August was lifted last Thursday.

Rookies face Kings

Meanwhile, Sta. Lucia suits up new recruits Al Peek and Nic Belasco as the Realtors battle crowd-darling Barangay Ginebra seven on San Miguel cites to notch an eighth straight win in the Araneta Coliseum today.

Peek, Belasco, as well as Yousif Aljamal, Sugatan Menor and Ning Ilecdan will reinforce the Realtors in the 4 p.m. contest against the Gin Kings after changing teams in the wake of the Kelly Williams crash.

Williams, the former MVP and erstwhile cornerstone, was dealt to Talk 'N Text together with do-it-all guard Ryan Reyes in a blockbuster deal that also involved Rambo Coffee Wednesday night.

The Coffee Masters gave up Aljamal and Menor in exchange for Jester Mark Isip and Talk 'N Text's second round draft choice this year.

Incidentally, the Coffee Masters will be the Beermen's foes in the nightcap at 6:30 p.m., and without Aljamal and Menor, they could prove to be easier picking for San Miguel even with injured Sammy Mirasol continuing to play at a high level.

Retooled Kings

Ginebra, meanwhile, is expected to come out a more refreshed team after Jong Uichico had close to a week to try and figure out how he can make his re-tooled roster "play the right way."

The Gin Kings have acquired former two-time MVP Willie Miller from Alaska and have gone 2-1 since. Those two victories were by slim margins and Uichico had said that he can't figure out what's wrong with the team.

Air21 was never in the game after the Llamados took an 11-point lead in the first period as import Reggie Larry never appeared to be in the groove the whole game.

After coming into the game with a 10-point average, Larry was held down to just 16 as Derby Ace took him out of his comfort spot effectively and made him work offensively.

Willie Routine did Paris (left) and Willie Miller, traded to Ginebra about two weeks ago, will try to jell with their new teammates. JUDE ANTONIO CRUZ

Pro-am tilt kicks off ICTSI-Riviera leg Tuesday

By Mueang R. Castillo

IT WILL BE THE CHANCE OF THE celebrities and corporate people to shine on Tuesday when the traditional pro-am tournament kicks off the ICTSI-Riviera Classic leg of the Philippine Golf Tour at the Couples Course in Silang, Cavite.

Tomoo Gamboya, the former vice-mini and parent from the business sector will partner with the country's leading pros in the 18-hole event that has become a familiar face in the 13-leg circuit.

Gamboya won the Montreal edition two months ago in the company of wife Crystel Mercado and Asian Tour regular Tony Lascuña over at the PL million event proper now off Pinkamalig in the wind-swept Fred Couples course.

This will mark one of the rare times that a pro event in the Riviera complex will skip the Langer layout, which played host to several Philippine Opens.

Jake Hanas, Paolo Santos, Gary Lim, Jeffrey Bernales and broadcaster Anthony Taccay are among the celebrities entered in the pro-am.

The tournament, which took a break of nine to eight weeks to accommodate the Asian Tour schedule, will have a banner cast of the country's finest that includes Angelo Quinto, Dagoman, Mars Ocampo, Antonio Lascuña and Jay Bayron, the hottest player on the Mercedes-Benz Tour.

A Canadian as Philippine Asian Games triathlon bet?

D'HALLORAN

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NO FOREIGN RESIDENT HAS EVER REPresented the Philippines in an international competition.

But the Triathlon Association of the Philippines (TRAP) is hoping to break new ground by invoking international triathlon rules in the case of Canadian Ivan Manuel-prince Medina G'Halloran, who wants to join the national team in the Asian Games in November.

TRAP president Tom Carrasco said he is awaiting clearance from the Philippine Olympic Committee regarding G'Halloran's case, noting that the international triathlon federation allows a foreigner to represent a country where he has been residing as if foreigners with such clearances from his/her mother country.

Carrasco said G'Halloran, a frequent visitor and competitor in local events while residing in Subic, expects to get his clearance from the Canadian triathlon federation next month.

He added that the Canadian is spending his own money in working on his permanent residency status with the immigration bureau.

G'Halloran, who has won several events here and abroad including the Ironman Lake International in Malaysia and the Tony Lumsdaine Race, is a strong medal prospect in the Asiad.

G'Halloran's best time in the Iron Man is nine hours, 10 minutes and 14 seconds during the Malaysian Iron Man in 2008, according to Triathlon Philippines.

"He is capable of a podium finish at the Asiad which is our objective," said Carrasco. "At long distances Iron Man triathlons, he has now focused on the Olympic distances."

The Asian Games will run the 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-kilo road bike ride and 10-kilo run for the triathlon. The Iron Man is 3.8km swim, 180km bike and a full marathon or 14.2 km).

The 24-year-old G'Halloran was a member of the Canadian junior national team that won the world championship.

The country's best placed 14th in the men's and 11th in the women's division during the Rubio Asian Games four years ago.

Arland Mercado clocked 2:05:37.01 against the gold medal time of 1:53:33.16 of Ronald Dante Gaog, Lee Lampit Reubeo in 2:14:46.69, 18 minutes down to Glenn Gonzales Wong-Hoogan, who bagged the gold.

The top SEA triathlon prospects are Hans Rooftop in Cagayan de Oro and La Salle's Hilden Rodrigues in the male division.

Jil Longit and Kim Mangaobang lead the female bets.

UP downs Perpetual Help

NU Bulldogs, Heavy Bombers squeeze past favored rivals

By Jasmine W. Payo

MIKE SILUNGON KNOCKED IN 22 POINTS as University of the Philippines rallied back a game Perpetual Help squad, 69-66, yesterday to clinch the second quarterfinal berth in the UAAP Spring V First Five Invitational Cup.

The Maroons swapped up their victorious campaign with a 5-2 record in Group B, just a notch above the Altamea Blue Eagles, who secured the first quarterfinal berth with a 6-1 slate.

Rendy Co and Martin Reyes dropped 17 points apiece for the Maroons, who led by 10 at halftime, 44-34, as the PHSAC Spring V Arena in San Juan.

In the second match, Instrumentation Emmanuel Mis blocked a potential game-winning bucket as National University edged past Adamson, 67-66, for its first victory in four outings.

Mis rejected Alex Mapile's three-point attempt just seconds after making a free throw that set the final score.

Jose Rizal University capped a day of doubles with a 91-82 squeaker over University of the East.

Johnny John Mpe teamed two time defense to give the Bombers a 93-90 battle with 19.2 seconds left but Paul Lee made it a one-point game with two free throws.

Lee had a chance to win the game for the Warriors, but missed a desperation heave at the buzzer.

The Bombers hiked their record to 5-2 in Group B while the Heroes slipped to 2-5 in the tournament hosted by Mighty Sound Engineering.

JOSE Rizal's Mark Lopez (left) is fouled in pass by the defense of University of the East's Ron Dulkar

Super Saver favored in Preakness

BALTIMORE—KENTUCKY DERBY WINNER Super Saver was made the early 2-1 favorite Wednesday for the Preakness Stakes, and he'll break from the starting gate next to horse owned by Preakness Lady Luck Jockey.

Trained by Todd Pletcher and ridden by Calvin Borel, Super Saver blew down the line. It post in the field of 12—two short of the maximum—for Saturday's 1 3-16 mile race at Pimlico.

"Right a position," Pletcher said. "It will give Calvin an opportunity to survey things. He'll be able to see which direction to go."

"He's turned enough that I think he's probably going to land in the first few. We've not committed to anything. We're just going to let our horse run his race."

Last year, Borel's ride finished fifth Rachel Alexandra to victory over three boys from the Pic. Lipped to ride for Gabriel.

Several favorite have won in the 134-year history of the Preakness, including the last five years. Besides 9-9 Rachel Alexandra last year, Big Brown was the 1-5 favorite when he won in 2008.

Pletcher, winning the Derby for 2-1, longdrive is steadily back with a potential and big-going ride, Borel produced Super Saver would become the first Triple Crown winner since 1978.

"I hope he's right," Pletcher said. "I have the feel that Calvin has a lot of confidence in the horse."

Lookin At Lucky was the 3-1 second choice of Pimlico oddsmaker Frank Cirelli. He'll start next to Super Saver in the No. 7 post after winning the Derby via Dar-tak and finishing sixth. He'll be ridden by Mosto Garcia in the Preakness, with Garrett Gomez riding in the Pimlico.

The last Preakness Derby Co-ette to win the Preakness was Point Given in 2001. He was trained by Bafferi, who hasn't won the race since 2002. AP

SPORTSWATCH

Coopersmith cops Okada Cup crown

SECOND-SEED NICOLE COOPERSMITH OF BUFFS PLAYED AN IRON Sunday 6-4, 6-3, to capture the girls' 12 under crown to wrap up top seeded Tenth the Filipinos and settled in the singles competition of the three in the 15-under class of the Okada Jamboree Cup at the Manila Polo Club yesterday.

Coopersmith, earlier ripped Chloe Mae Ramos, 6-0, 6-0, in the semis on the way to the finals. Arrested quarterfin. 5 hapless Ramos, 6-4, 6-0, in the semis.

Ramos, who was the second No. 2 Philippine player, 6-0, 6-1, while Sampaloc showed second seed Anne Carolin, 1-1(2), 6-3, to assure the title showdown in the 16-under category of the group 3 tournament presented by Okada Resorts and First Sure Corp. and sponsored by Smart Communications.

'Executive' footrace gets going

RUNNING CAMANDOS FROM THE TOP BRASS OF LOCAL companies, business while prizes, guaranteed, military and the diplomatic corps will join the 27th Fortune 10-K Executive Classic on May 23 at the UP-Diliman campus in Quezon City.

The 10-kilometer footrace, an annual project of the Executive Runners Club (Philippines) Runners), will only be limited to 500 runners.

Runners also said that will run from the military road have a minimum age of 18 years old and those from government offices should be a minimum level at least.

Registration forms can be downloaded at www.executiveclub.com.ph and at www.pcgrunnersphilippines.com. Entry fee is P550, inclusive of a Bike Ch+ 40 shirt. For details, call 0917-3028222 and 2009-402-4255 or e-mail marjane.magsaysay@yahoo.com.

NCA derby features foreign bets

TOP BASEBALLERS FROM THE UNITED STATES CLASH AGAINST National talks in the three-day National Coaches Alliance World Championship Derby starting on May 25 at the Yoyoon Sports Arena in Pasay City.

Ryan Gay, Allen Sandoval, Tom Wilson, Tom Cooper and Lamar Langschwadt top the list American cricket among northlands along with Filipinos George Torres, Finney and Gamino Arriaga, Rene Bautista and Ric de Guzman.

Villanova and Gay's "Simple Living Phoenix," meanwhile, leads the NCA Cruise of the Year with 26 points.

Elorde cockpit hosts 4-cocker

THE ELORDE COCKPIT STADIUM HOSTS A FOUR-COCK DERBY with 24 winning game elsewhere as top of P300,000.

Promoter Johnny Elorde said the handler and the gaffer of the winning derby will receive P70,000 and P30,000 respectively with a minimum bet of P1,000.

Eights shall start at 7 p.m. Submission and declaration of weights will be on derby day from 5 p.m. to 12 noon.

For details, call 8524021, 8250891 or 0915-4000511.

Asian Battle of GMs begins next month

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES WILL PLAY HOST WHEN the top three players of Asia step in on the Asian Battle of Grandmasters from June 20 to 30 at the Pearl of the Diliman Resort in San Antonio, Zambales.

Wesley So, Jayvee Sumaya, Darwin Laylo, Joyce Gonzales and John Paul Gomez will represent the country as the event that will allow host up GM-born 12 countries, including Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Iran and China.

National Chess Federation of the Philippines executive director Walter Gonzales, the said several tournaments will be held as marquee the Asian Battle which is in honor of the late Iloilo honorary president Sr. Mr. Hermogenes Gonzales.

"It is also a great training ground for the team Europe," said Abalos during the recent hook-up Guinness of man in Pasig Pasay.

Other tournaments slated are the National Juniors for 29-under on May 29-24, and the Battle of Filipino (Elo set to) on May 23 to June 2 at Tagaytay City.

The Asian Blue Chesse is also slated June 4 to 12 in Iloilo where players from Southeast Asian and Europe are expected to participate.

"(Congressman) told us shortly before his death to continue our progress of developing more Filipino (GM) to succeed what he (his) started while still the head of the former Batasang Pambansa Subdivision and Iloilo," said Abalos of Congressman, who passed away two weeks ago in Baguio City. With reports from Mike Alphaida A. Barrios

Teen pugs join Abap Subic tourney

VARGAS

UNDER-20S WINNER JUR TEEN-WEIGHTS ring it out in the week-long PLDT Abap Boxing Championship starting today at the Subic gym.

The top performers of the bout, one of the four area tournaments slated this year, will be tapped for the January 2017 National Championship.

"We're bringing these tournaments to the provinces for gentler accessibility," said Ricky Vargas, president of the Amateur Basketball Association.

The area tournaments, open to boxers aged 11 to 19 years old, are held in Cebu, Visayas, Mindanao and the National Capital Region.

"These tournaments are the best vehicles for us to energize Abap's grassroots development program," said PLDT senior vice president Eric Alfonso.

In another development, Abap executive director Ed Picson said that Olympian medalist Roel Velasco has been appointed as head trainer of the country's elite boxers composed of Charly Suarez, Nestor Villanueva, Rey Saludar, Victorio Saludar and Mark Anthony Barriga.

"The group is considered for Abap as the crown of the crop and is expected to bumper the PH campaign in international competitions," said Abap secretary general Pedrick Gregorio, noting that the quintet will train with Viloria in hosting camps overseas, including Australia and the United Arab Emirates. By Payo

This karter also plays rugby

ORDUNA

ROLANDO BARTES OF THE private Jury Orduna obtained his ceremonial records to be joined the 30-man International School Manila delegation to the Youth Rugby International Invitational Cup finals in Lumpur, Malaysia.

The Lycean-led Orduna played as part of the first-string team that swamped against host-national School Kuala Lumpur, the Jakarta International School and the Australian International School of Kuala Lumpur.

The delegation, composed of three teams of 15 players each, was accompanied by coaches Joseph Gaston, Dana Dan Dan Manuel, Andrea Hindi Highland and Mixed Team coach Caroline Diamond.

With Orduna in the first string, Red Mixed Team were Jhay Ho Ken, Yuko Nakazone, Hyung Jun Kim, Alex Grinman, Barry Gaston, Hung Seok Bum, Andrea Hindi Highland and Mixed Team coach Caroline Diamond.

Orduna is slated to compete in the kickoff leg of the 2017 Asian Karting Open Championship set June 11 to 13 at the Clearwater Racetrack.

DRAGONS

Domingo fights for Z Gorres

EVERYBODY KNOWS THE STORY OF how 2 "The Dream" Gorres' dream of winning a world boxing title was shattered to pieces.

2 had just scored a smashing victory over unbeaten Luis Melendez of Colombia in Las Vegas last November, dropped the Philippine flag stowed for shoulders after the decision was announced, then collapsed in his corner.

Gorres underwent emergency brain surgery, and the miracle is that he is in Cebu on the verge of leading a normal life. But his dream of giving his country another world title has turned into a nightmare.

* * *

One of 2's closest friends at the famed ALS Gym in Cebu is WBO Oriental bantamweight champion Michael Domingo, who is set to battle the same Melendez on the plush Pueblo Ballroom of the Waterfront Hotel on May 23. The encounter is expected to be a highly emotional one, after what happened to Gorres.

Gorres has told Domingo how to overcome Melendez and will be at special ringside during the fight to give his friend a console hand. It's a fight that fans are eagerly looking forward to because of its emotional dimensions. It's the story of two close friends, one striving to encourage the pain of the other.

To the credit of Melendez, he is coming to Cebu knowing that in this bantamweight of Gorres and fight fans remember here he ended the career of one of our brightest stars, and certainly one of the nicest young men in boxing.

That's the very nature of the sport. It can sometimes be brutal and inflict untold pain.

Perhaps there is no exclusion.

* * *

Giustino had won the game against Bardo Coffee that night, but Kings coach Jong Dichoso was not happy. In fact Jong was angry and he missed no words in expressing his feelings when he faced the media in the post-game interview.

"We won't go on winning this way. It's good we won, but the way we won was ugly. This is nothing to be happy about," said the four-year Giustino mentor.

"How can you play like that against teams that are usually playing in the wild card."

Giustino had spotless resources against Bardo Coffee in the last quarter with the Coffee Masters leading by as many as nine points in the dying minutes. The Kings caught up, edging the Coffee Masters, 93-90.

"The team is different. It's not Giustino playing."

Jong said he couldn't figure out what's wrong. He couldn't fault the import Hilton Andrews, because he was consistently scoring in decent numbers.

"If it's not the import, then it must be either the local players—or the coach," he said.

* * *

Because he was sincerely remorseful for what he had done, and because he had spent the time while under suspension productively Ar221's Wynne Arboleda got a favorable response from PBA commissioner Sonny Barrios on his appeal last March to be reinstated.

Wynne returned to active duty when Ar221 fared B-Meg in Pasadena City Dome Del Norte yesterday.

"I'm happy to be able to play again. Playing basketball is my livelihood," Wynne said, as he thanked everyone who helped him, especially his fellow players who supported his appeal for reinstatement.

Ar221 is currently wallowing at the bottom of team standings with a 1-6 win-loss record.

IN HUDDLE

Ruth Cerbi

Pacquiao leads Global Slasher cast

BOXING ICON MANNY PACQUIAO HEADS A powerhouse cast in Pasay City Cockpit's Gintong Kabalen 8-Cock International Derby on May 18 and 21.

Patrick Gregorio, derby host, invited Pacquiao to be among the tough cast of top-cast international champions.

Pacquiao has already collected a string of cockfight championships, most notably the WBA World Championship Derby in 2008.

Aside from Pacquiao, others on the tough line-up are Joe Cienfuet of California, Jun Tapacio and Ronald Allen of North Carolina, Benny Pascua, Dranie "Atong" Ang, Boy Macias, Jet Fernando and the Mackenbryan Brothers.

Submission of entries is set on Monday, May 17, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Please call 8404306, 8351196 and 09175617907.

MICHELLE Carolino will join the Tigresses for the Shakey's V-League semifinals.

UST battles Lyceum in V-League s'finals

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS Tigresses shift their bid for a third straight crown into high gear when they take on the dangerous Lyceum Lady Pirates at the start of the Shakey's V-League Season 7 semifinals at the PhilSports Flying V Arena.

The Tigresses and the Lady Pirates kick off their best-of-three series at 2 p.m., right before traditional powerhouse San Sebastian tackles a weakened Arellano side in their own race to two series at 4 p.m.

UST will rely on standouts Angeli Tabaquero and Aiza Maizo, along with guest player Michelle Carolino, against Lyceum's Thai import, the hard-hitting Pornthip Inserung.

According to UST coach Shaq delos Santos, Carolino, who already suited up as a guest player in previous seasons, joined the team anew but only started training with the tours two days ago. Likewise, last season's MVP Mary Joyce Rubea is still recovering from an injured knee.

"We will really prepare for this game [against Lyceum]. We have to polish our plays further," said delos Santos.

The Lady Pirates are still reeling from a surprise straight-set drubbing from eliminated Visayas team University of St. La Salle in a no-beating matchfest Thursday.

San Sebastian College will go it on its match-up against Arellano the heavy favorites as the Lady Knight will train on injured star Chaiti Ismama.

Ismama—who will be replaced by guest player Astrid Parungao—has her anterior cruciate ligament and will be decommissioned the rest of the season. *Jasmine M. Payo and Mike Rafael A. Barrios, Contributor*

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While shopping at ACE Express, also check out the Save and Conserve promotion where you can get great savings on energy efficient products until May 31. You can also earn rewards points when you use your SM Advantage, Prestige, and BDO Credit and Rewards cards.

ACE Express stores are located at SM Cubao and Broadway Centrum. These items are also available at ACE Express outlets at the SM Department Stores in North EDSA, Fairview, Harrison, Quiapo, Sta. Mesa, San Lazaro, Southmall, Dasmi, Bicutan, Manila, Taytay, and the SM Mall of Asia. In the provincial areas, these are located at the SM Supermalls in Marilao, Baliwag, Pampanga, Clark, Rosales, Bicutan, Dasmariñas, Pavilion, Lipa, Batangas, Sta. Rosa, Lucena, Cebu, Iloilo, and the newly opened store at SM City Tarlac. These are also located at Savemore branches in Taytay and Meycauayan, as well as SM Supermarket Naga.

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Laguna couple earns meaty profits

JOSHUA'S Meat Products now has 70 employees making processed meats products like longganisa, tocino, tinapa, bacon and ham, among others.

Text and photos by Raven Lupisan
Inquirer Southern Luzon

MAGDALENA, LAGUNA—BOBBY Manoy and Virginia Valencia got married in 1993, they spent almost all their savings on their wedding.

Fortunately, they decided to keep P2,000 from the P7,000 they received from their principal sponsors and put that amount to a small meat processing business.

They never thought that Joshua's Meat Products (JMP) would generate a significant number of sacks and households in Southern Tagalog and nearby regions with its longganisa, tocino, hot dog, bacon and ham, and other meat items.

Manoy, 42, says the biblical "fortune" was the name he gave to a sari.

Homemade

When they were just starting, Manoy says he just wanted to bring enough income to his family so they could make both ends meet.

"My wife and I tried making longganisa [naive attempt] on our own without any formal training," he recalls, adding that he would simply buy ground pork from a nearby wet market in Nag-carlan, one of the top sellers of pork in Laguna.

MANNY Valencia remains hands-on in running Joshua's Meat Products (JMP) in Magdalena, Laguna.

IN 1994, Manoy was a businessman looking for someone who could produce P20,000 worth of longganisa. This began the influx of buyers.

"Your initial buyers were our neighbors," Manoy says.

Nine months later, the couple acquired a house from their earnings.

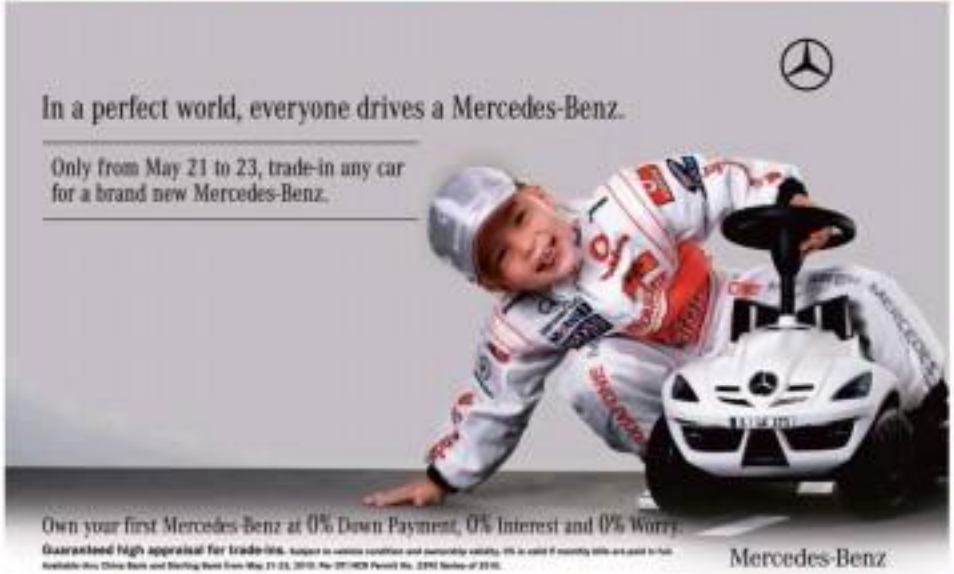
In 1994, Manoy met a businessman from San Pablo City who was looking for someone who could produce P20,000 worth of longganisa. He accepted the job, and the influx of mass buyers began.

Since then, the Valencias have developed more products to address a wider number of target buyers.

Higher demand

Now, JMP distributes products not only in Laguna and Metro Manila, but also

LAGUNA B2



Great Expectations

A PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY of leadership is to communicate expectations, both with words and actions. When leaders carefully and consistently set expectations, they engineer a flourishing work environment. Otherwise, when leaders abdicate their duty to communicate expectations, chaos ensues. Here are six rules of thumb to follow as you set expectations in your organization.

1) Set them for yourself first.

Leaders must set the bar the highest for themselves. They must go first and give the vision. Leaders who demand more of their people than they do of themselves quickly lose credibility with followers. However, leaders who commit to taking the first step demonstrate their belief in the vision, and they earn the right to ask others to follow.

2) Set them early.

Have you ever boarded a train without being orderly sure if it was the correct one? If so, then you probably didn't feel at ease until the conductor announced its destination. Once you leave the route, you could relax and enjoy the ride.

Uncertainty causes anxiety. People have an innate need to know where they're headed. They want guide to guide them and navigate to it. By communicating expectations early leaders provide direction. People feel secure when they know the plan and have a good idea of what the future holds.

3) Set them clearly.

Confusion breeds frustration. When a leader fails to communicate clear expectations, people invest pieces of what he or she wants. Oftentimes those assumptions do not line up with the leader's desires, causing followers to misspend time or squander energy.

Clearly communicated expectations spell out a leader's vision and define everyone's roles and responsibilities. Unambiguous expectations also align nothing provide structure, and promote harmony. Serving as a reference point, clear expectations allow people to evaluate their performance and gauge whether or not they are succeeding.

4) Set them optimistically.

People generally perform in a way that's consistent with our expectations of them. That's why it's important to believe the best about those around you. When we give others a worthwhile reputation to uphold, they will work to meet our expectations. However, if we view others negatively, then we're likely to treat them without respect. In turn, meeting our dislike them, people are apt to put in minimum effort and to confirm our suspicions of them.

5) Set them realistically.

Inexperienced leaders have a nasty habit of offering more than they, or their teams, can give. In doing so, they damage their character, sever relationships with customers, and discourage those they lead. In making exaggerated claims to gain business, they actually lose business in the long run after failing to come through.

Under promise and over deliver. Be sensible about your commitments, and diligently follow through on them. You don't get credit for intentions, only for accomplishments. Set your people up for success by setting aggressive but attainable goals for them.

6) Exceed them consistently.

Go above and beyond what others expect from you as a leader. People expect you to be late, but be generous as well. People expect you to respect them, but those you care for them, too. People expect you to be judicious when you exercise authority, but be willing to err on. Over time, as you exceed expectations, talented people will flock to your organization. Everyone wants to work for a leader who has his or her best interests in mind and leads with excellence on a consistent basis.

Level up your leadership skills. Attend the Developing The Leader Within You with Maxwell certified facilitator Francis J. Rong, May 26-29 at the Dusit Hotel Makati. Call Inspire Leadership Consultants at 687-2654 or 0917-8211113. Visit us at www.inspireph.com

Paying dues to Mother Earth

By Amy R. Nuno

COGON lands were cleared to plant a variety of fruit and forest trees.

NOMADIC, SEEKING BUSINESSES occasionally does not only entail employing the best people or always having the latest technology at hand. A company also needs to pay its dues to Mother Earth, as well as to the surrounding communities affected by its operations.

SN Aboitiz Power-Magat Inc. (SNAP-Magat), having realized such, has recently forged an agreement with the Ifugao provincial government to join its Social Development Scouts) Action Development Center (SADC) to implement a project that will help protect and develop forest areas in Ifugao.

In particular, the Livelihood, Ecotourism and Agro-forestry Development (LEAD) project—aimed to be the company's first joint project with an NGO—will help curb deforestation in the Ifugao watershed areas.

The Isnub Peoples Organization (IPO), an upstream community made up of some 30 families, will also help in implementing the project.

"We strongly believe in grassroots initiatives because residents of the community know best what needs to be done in their own community. It is our way of helping develop forest areas while providing livelihood opportunities to upstream communities," says Michael C. Hodillon, SN Aboitiz Power-VP for corporate services.

According to the memorandum of understanding, the partnership between SNAP-Magat and SADC will be the vehicle for implementing the Protection of the Watershed through Community and Resources-based Agro-forestry Development (PROCURED) project.

This program is expected to provide viable alternative to unsustainable practices and protect watershed areas from further degradation.

Over the next two years, the SADC should be able to accomplish a number of activities under the program, including the establishments of tree nurseries in the upstream communities of Ifugao, namely, Hapid (Tinoc), Soleg (Kiangan), Poblacion South (Lagawe), IMEC farming farm (Hingyon) and Cabatuan (Hingyon). The nurseries will be used for the production of seedlings or planting materials.

According to SADC chair Salvador Dimon, the connection of grassroots into forests through the planting of fruit-bearing and other agro-forest trees will provide livelihood for communities.

Dimon added that organic farming will also be a component of the LEAD project through the establishment of dwelling areas to consolidate swidden areas, an organic fertilizer for farmers. Animal composting is a process that uses earthworms to turn organic wastes into high-quality compost.

The Isnub Peoples Organization, which has an established membership of twelve tribunals and farmers, will help in implementing reforestation and seedling production activities in the five pilot areas.

Meanwhile, the SADC chall also be tasked to clear the region and "weed" harsh and plant a variety of fruit and forest trees, including bamboo and sugarcane within five barrows each in Lagawe, Hingyon and Tinoc.

The NGO will likewise maintain the newly established agro-forest areas within the duration of the project to ensure its viability as a model for the development of other watershed areas. The group will further train livelihood groups for product development, particularly pomelo marmalade and muscovado sugar.

For its part, SNAP-Magat is expected to finance the project by allocating a portion of its Corporate Social Responsibility Fund.

The company chall also jointly undertake with SADC, all aspects of the program implementation, including, but not limited to, orientations, seminars, information and education, and community organizing needed for the program.

It will likewise monitor and evaluate the progress of the project as well provide the necessary inputs for the successful implementation and execution of the program.

SNAP-Magat, a joint venture between Aboitiz Power Corp. and SN Power Invest AS of Norway, acquired the 360-megawatt Magat hydroelectric power plant in 2007.

The facility draws water from the Magat Dam and operates as a peaking plant that sells energy through the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM). The water that is released from the plant is then used to irrigate approximately 85,000 hectares of farmlands.

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ICF's board of directors include Cecile B. Macaraig, Peroxide House Group chair and CEO Martin I. P. Carmona, Clara B. Sunsaja and Bernadette M. Lee.

DESSERTS Swarovski, Backed by 30 years of industry leadership of Peroxide House Group, ICF trains Filipinos chefs to become world-class kitchen talents.

Getting jobs abroad via culinary schools

FILIPINO CHEFS ARE FAST BECOMING A hot commodity and a best bet for international kitchens due to their natural talent for cooking, artistry, discriminating taste buds, work ethic and their flair for the English language.

In recent years, the Philippines had sent about 8,100 qualified people to kitchens all over the world, two-thirds of whom were chefs and cooks. The number is much different with only 1,800 left the country in 2000 to work in kitchens abroad.

And the demand continues to rise.

England has recently indicated the need for close to 300 chefs while Australia has signified intentions to hire more chefs and cooks. The Middle East, despite recent economic setbacks, continues to have huge demand for skilled kitchen staff. Cruise lines have also mentioned to bring huge for new recruits.

The Philippines is also expecting huge demand for highly skilled kitchen personnel due to the influx of medical tourists in the country who will need special food preparations. The Department of Tourism has announced its projection that more than 200,000 medical tourists will visit the country annually.

The apparent global scarcity for qualified cooks and chefs have driven up the salary to as much as $4,000 a month or approximately P198,000, which spells a huge difference compared to the average P15,000 salary of their local counterparts.

Seeing the demand and the prospect of a huge pay, Filipinos have started to look at becoming a chef or cook as a career.

As a result, the Philippines in recent years saw tremendous growth in the number of culinary schools around the country offering various certificates, courses and degrees. Culinary schools have become the Filipinos' gateway towards global employment.

SETTING SI

Laguna couple earns

From page B1

in Bicol and other places in northern Luzon.

With 75 employees, it currently makes six to seven tons of meat products—a far cry from its starting output of 20 to 30 kilos.

"We also buy raw meat from local sellers, so we're helping Sagpaybac townsfolk through [SME]" Misuey says.

He remains hands-on in managing the business, and inspires other sales on food safety and sanitation. The welfare of buyers always comes first, he says.

"It was perhaps a combination of luck, perseverance and faith," says Misuey, who admits to a [illegible] of success.

Blend of reggae, sun, sea and food at Bob Marlin

By Jenny Celeste Suker
Inquirer Southern Luzon

NAGA CITY—LONG BEFORE Magsaysay Avenue became this city's entertainment strip, a homegrown restaurant quietly opened and quickly became and stole a breakfast by subsidy all other dining places on the avenue would come to be measured.

Twenty years ago, Remagen Jean Cristina Palma put up Gerry's Grill restaurant—a place where diners could eat good food and feel right at home.

Everyone started when the packed food selling business of Palma had grown in size and popularity that she needed to put up a place where her clients could eat the food she would prepare right away.

She was a graduate of a food and restaurant course, but her inclination toward food and cookery was largely her father's fault...he persevered in teaching Palma how to prepare food the right way.

"Since I was a child, my father has been teaching me how to cook and, actually in my elementary school years, everyone in the family looked up here for cooking," says Palma.

So, when the time came, she established her own restaurant and named it after herself.

"But along came the economic troubles of the 1990s, which greatly affected her business and caused her near the big restaurant to bankrupt.

"It was during that time that I learned the importance of not giving up. I learned how to cope with business problems. I learned to manage enough to handle them. I did not give up despite the devastation," Palma says.

In 2009, she said her family got back into the restaurant business and opened "Bob Marlin"—a pun on the name of legendary reggae artist Bob Marley and the Southwest Gulf Food Bird Marlin.

"My son loves reggae and Bob Marley and we want the restaurant to be a new place where our clients may dine of fusion in a beach setting. Hence, ... Bob Marlin," Palma explains.

drink like a fish.

EDIBLE: Of the foods served at Bob Marlin Inn and along Magsaysay Avenue in Naga City, its restaurant concept is seafood plus the usual home-cooked staples.

She says Bob Marlin is basically the old Remagen restaurant but with new concepts.

"It is a place where everyone can have seafood and our old regulars," she adds.

Since the restaurant opened, many high-profile clients have dropped in to sample the food.

Even a former Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo wrote that the best food "dinguan" (blood stew) may be found in Bob Marlin.

That piece now hangs on a wall of the restaurant.

Senators Pia Cayetano and Ads Angara have also posted their culinary remarks, commending on how delectable the dishes were.

Palma says that the restaurant used to be filled up only during school breaks, festival season and fiesta days.

"But with the tourism boom in Camarines Sur, it has become all year round."

She says even foreign tourists from the Cameroons, San Hemisperes Zone, plus would come to the restaurant and order Filipino food.

And now that more and more conventions are being held in Naga, executives visitors are making a beeline for the restaurant.

The bestsellers at Bob Marlin is the satay pusit (pork liver/gut) and beef dinguan.

In addition to Bicol cookery, Bob Marlin also serves the classic "pinapaitan" (pressed young cocoanut meat laced with thick coconut milk and wrapped in tender gabi, or taro, leaves), Bicol Express, and "laing" (shredded gabi leaves in coconut milk).

Another hot item on the menu is "bistek" (beef bean marinen), which is served steaming and flavored with spices.

Other restaurant staples are, of course, crabs and tuna steaks, freshly grilled squid and cleaved fish, all served with tropical refreshments.

While dining, customers are treated to reggae music.

Palma says Sen. Bob primarily is the inspiration of their diners.

"They should always be delighted by the food and restaurant service," she says.

From time to time, she will personally interact with them on the menu and, once she perfects it, she will teach her chef how to prepare the dish.

Today Bob Marlin is on the top of every restaurant destination list. From baptismal and graduation feasts to small wedding receptions, the restaurant has become the place to be in this bustling city.

"Dedication and hard work, that's my secret to success," says Palma.

Getting jobs ...

From page B2

To date, more than 400 culinary schools operate around the country, a far cry from only one just before in 2000.

While some schools are currently riding on the phenomenon and are out to make a quick buck due to the surge in demand, only a select few genuinely train Filipino talents for international and local employment.

The main objective of the Institute for Culinary Arts and Food Service (ICF) "is to fulfill the dreams of our students to be employed locally and internationally, which is to become chefs proud of their personal and professional success," says Ma. Sue Sales, school director.

ICF is manned by seasoned and highly experienced culinary experts and specialists in culinary arts, baking, pastry and food service.

"ICF is for those who want to learn and improve their culinary skills in an environment where they will work with fresh local and high-end ingredients, from simple to complex menus and equipment used by respected faculty members," says Sales.

ICF offers a Diploma in Culinary Chefs Training Program (CCTP), a Diploma in Baking and Pastry Chefs Training Program (BPCTP) and numerous short courses offered in the Continuing Education Training Program (CETP), such as Basic Cooking, Baking and Pastry Production, Basic Kitchen Skills and Management Foodservice operations courses.

To be called ICF@PEU, the culinary school is a joint venture of consul dining leader Pancake House Group and Far Eastern University (FEU).

Set to open in June this year, the school is located in the campus, which was built from the former Cecilio Pharma building corner Sen. Gil Puyat and Mahagny Street, Makati City.

ICF@FEU, operated by PHI Culinary Arts and Food Services Inc., accepts applicants for enrollment in June 2010. Call 8922000 or 4017000, or e-mail marketing_sales@icf.com.ph for inquiries. Also visit www.icf.com.ph

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Shaping the Realty World

How to choose structurally-safe condos

By Tessa R. Salazar

STRUCTURAL EXPERTS SAY THAT CONDOMINIUM BUILDINGS ARE DESIGNED BY architects and engineers based on sound engineering standards.

Inquirer Property talked to a structural engineer and an architect who gave assurance that the majority of new condominiums in the Philippines are inherently safe structurally.

Gideon Javier, project management director of Gideon International, said the practice of employing and regulating structural engineers in the country is "very strict."

Architect Roy Morcilla of the United Architects Philippines said a contractor or a developer will not be given the proper occupancy permit by the local government if the building has not been constructed in accordance with plans and specifications.

The question is, should buyers take all these things for granted?

Javier and Morcilla said buyers – and the public in general – don't have to be clueless even if they are not clear knowledgeable in engineering or architecture.

Helpful tips

Even with strict construction laws, Morcilla said that one must be careful in choosing a unit, especially if it is in an old building. Here are some helpful tips on choosing structurally-safe condos.

1 Be observant and look behind the paint works. There might be cracks that have been painted on. Check for inconsistent cracks, or cracks traversing the same section of structural beams and columns. Weakening structural beams forms a series of cracks. If these cracks have not been properly addressed, they could lead to disaster, especially during a strong earthquake, Morcilla warned.

Also be mindful of long continuous cracks on the walls, which could mean the building is "settling" against the earth, or a collateral effect from the beam failure, or worse, foundation design failure. These cracks will reappear even after being patched and painted.

Differentiate a hairline crack, which is superficial, from a structural crack. A hairline crack would normally be thin, isolated, and can be hidden by paint and patching compound. The best way to validate structural wall cracks is to investigate the opposite side of the wall where the cracks appear. If the same configuration of cracks appears on the same spot on the other side, there is a possibility that they are structural, and thus, a major cause for concern.

And don't underestimate small structural cracks. In a country like the Philippines situated in the Pacific Ring of Fire, earthquakes are more common than you think. And even where there are no felt earthquakes, tectonic plates constantly keep moving beneath us, thus resulting in constant shifting of the land. That small crack, therefore, can add up over time, and before you know it, a monumental collapse occurs.

2 Look at the electricities, Javier advised. "Bring in a few of your appliances, plug them in and turn on all the lights, and see if the lights flicker or you hear loud popping noises followed by darkness."

3 Does the building have fire alarms? Javier stressed condo buyers should make sure the building has smoke alarms. "So much the better if you see a panel in the ground floor that lights up to show where the fire is."

4 Check the fire escape. It isn't enough that there is one. Javier said fire escapes should have metal doors and the unit's alarm if opened from the inside to keep out burglars. "It's better if there is a panic handle."

5 Look for fire sprinklers. They should be on ceilings or beams.

6 Look for ventilation. "Make sure there is ventilation, especially in the kitchen area for cooking fumes to escape, especially if they allow you to use gas ranges in the building," Javier said.

7 And just like test-driving cars, roll-ride signs of poor construction can be found on doors and floors. "Make sure the floors are level and the doors open and shut well. This means the building is well-aligned," Javier said.

8 What do you have to do first thing in the morning when you go in the building?

"Don't drink coffee, don't smoke, pop tarts in the building first thing in the morning and see if you can smell pee or see stains in the ceiling it's a sign of faulty plumbing," Javier said.

"Would you believe the SARS epidemic spread so quickly in Hong Kong because the virus made its way through leaks in the plumbing? While you are at it, flush all the toilets to make sure that they are fixed properly. If not, they will not flush well."

9 Open the taps and smell the water.

10 Try to randomly talk to an existing unit owner or tenant and ask about problems, not just about the building, but also the neighbors.

11 Choose a condo unit that uses the least wooden components. Partitions and ceilings should at least be of metal framing and cement board or gypsum board cladding, Morcilla advised.

12 Hallways and staircases must be made of materials with at least two hours fire rating. Materials must be concrete or those with similar properties.

Inquirer, July 14, 2007

Tivoli Garden Residences unveils the 'Luminvente' advantage

Central Atrium

INSIDE THE HEART OF THE METRO is evolving one of the hottest new master-planned areas on record, a prestigiged group of residences in a high-rise condo is keeping it cool through their unique building attributes. So much so that when asked how they are coping with the heat at home, all they can probably say is: "No sweat!"

Built advantage is courtesy of DMCI Homes – a builder of landmarks and one of today's leading developers known for innovative building designs that are conceived and constructed in the industry. At their premiere high-rise project called Tivoli Garden Residences in Mandaluyong, a new technology has been provided specifically to counter the stifling effects of urban living, known as the "Luminvente advantage."

Through three-storey high openings on the front and back of the towering buildings called Sky Parks and through the transom windows located on the left and right wing of every floor, free-flowing light and air permeates around the structure, hence the moniker "Lu-

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IN THIS ISSUE

■ Bataan resort's Old World charm /D1
■ Medusa: More than just a head of hair /F1

A genteel champion against a gruesome trade

By Alyn B. Honasan
Contributor

AMYCHIO Ruaan with ARF shelter dog Bisha, who was rescued from the slaughterhouse

This sugar baron has found a pet cause in the plight of dogs destined for the dinner table

IT'S LIKE ENTERING THE country home of an English gentleman. The library is full of books, sturdy furniture and artworks, most of them depicting animals. The biggest giveaway is a large close-up photograph of Baby, the 13-year-old miniature dachshund who is the princess of the house and the apple of the eye of Don Antonio Roxas, the gentleman who holds court here.

And indeed, Baby is most at home on Don Antonio's lap, on warm wool blankets, and, it constantly referred to as his "sweetheart" and "darling."

"I'm leaving again on Monday, and, of course, she's coming with me," says Roxas.

Although Diana has limited mobility for both master and animal—Roxas lives with polio, while Baby has a problem with her hind leg—the pair is one of the country hall of the year, spending time in Madrid, where Roxas has a home, as well as London and Paris.

"She spends so much time in planes, she should be given mileage," he says of his adored pet with a laugh. "When we check into our favorite hotel in Paris, they ask about her first before they ask about me."

Has he ever considered getting a younger sibling for Baby, whom he acquired from a kennel in Oxford, England?

"No, because I don't like to treat two animals differently," he says. "And Baby already sleeps in my bed, so if I get another dog to squeeze into my bed, I might have to move to the Peninsula."

The world of Don Antonio Jose Mendoza Roxas—patriarch of the Roxas clan,

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A genteel champion against a gruesome trade

From page C1

Chairman of the Board of Emma and Company, Inc. (formerly the Central Automotive de Dios Pedro Group), which has vast interests in real estate and energy, and a known philanthropist...is very different from the world of the creatures he has chosen to help.

At one of the country's wealthiest men, Romo admits he gets solicitations "every day" from every kind of group, including nuns and priests from orders he has never even heard of.

For the last few years, however, 5 per cent has been the plight of native Filipino dogs... specifically, dogs are being killed for the illegal dog meat trade in the Philippines.

The dogs he has helped saved from the literal jaws of death have been through horrors he would never imagine. Baby going through. They are caught and tied, their front legs broken and bound before they are thrown into sacks. If they don't die of suffocation, dehydration or heatstroke on the hours-long trip to dog-eating markets everywhere, they are strangled or beaten to death upon arrival, skinned, chopped up and delivered to dog meat eateries and restaurants to be eaten.

> It's a long way from a doomed dog's cage to this opulent library, but Abba knows a good heart when she sees one

Main mission

Based in the Philippine operations of the Animal Kingdom Foundation (AKF), the animal welfare organization established in 1998 as the Philippine affiliate of the United Kingdom-based International Wildlife Conservation Trust. Although the organization runs an adoption program, offers neutering and veterinary services to indigent dog owners, and is a training ground for volunteer veterinary students, its main mission is to stop the dog meat trade in the Philippines. It was officially illegal with the passage of RA 8485, the Animal Welfare Law in 1998.

The law has made it unlawful to butcher, neglect or maltreat animals and deprive them of adequate care, or to engage in dog or horse fights.

This rather ambitious piece of legislation got more specific with, however, such fine print as the Anti-Rabies Law of 2007, where, according to Section 7, it is the express responsibility of the local government unit to prohibit the trade of dog meat.

"It is a serious problem not only because of the cruelty involved, but also because it is a growing illegal industry," says AKF country president Jeanette Uanieta.

"It is estimated that around 250,000 dogs are being killed for pulutan in the Philippines every-

MAJORITY of the dogs at the center were rescued from the illegal dog meat trade. JEANETTE UANIETA

year. That's approximately 1974 million a year for those involved in the dog meat trade. In Baguio City and La Trinidad, Benguet alone, there are around 66 restaurants, eateries and carinderia serving dog meat. And to think that, in most parts of the world, the dog, regardless of breed, is considered man's best friend. There are no words to describe how these dogs are being treated and handled."

Since its establishment in the Philippines by its founder, Englishman Charles Pamenberg, AKF has worked closely with the PNP to gather information and participate in raids. With their help, more than 60 people have been arrested and charged, and over 20 restaurants and slaughterhouses closed.

AKF also maintains a 2.5-ha mango orchard it has leased in Brgy. Cabesab, Capas, Tarlac, as an Animal Rescue and Rehabilitation Center, with complete veterinary facilities, a full-time staff and some 30 holding pens for almost 400 dogs, most of them rescued from slaughter.

It was the tiny pictures of the shelter on a bookmark, used to floats after he made his first donation, that piqued Boni Romo's interest.

"I called them," he clarifies. "I even read something about the AKF in the papers, and I sent them some money."

Then, last Jan. 20, Romo asked to visit the shelter.

"I went around the homes, saw the dogs behind the wire fences, and I was impressed," he says. "I believe in the work, and I believe in what they are doing to prevent all these horrible things from happening."

He came on his own, with a driver and an aide," recalls AKF corporate secretary and fundraising officer Greg Quinto. "He was like a curious kid inside the shelter's main office, asking questions about the dog meat trade. He was very composed, but his interest is undeniable. He's for real."

"He support is important to us because he can be an example to all Filipinos, rich or poor, in helping save dogs, regardless of their breed," says Uanieta.

Animal lover

By his own admission, Romo grew up an animal lover, here and when he was collecting stones, later working for a bank and an oil company in London before coming home to take over the family business.

"My dad dogs, forever. I have a soft spot for animals, particularly dogs. Dogs are so loyal, you can relate to them, and they can relate to you. Besides," he says with a smile, "I know that animals are much better than people. How many people can you trust? And even the ones you trust can turn on you."

He is certain even cows and pigs know when they're being led to the slaughter.

"We're the biggest murderers. I tell you. In the long term, everyone should really turn vegetarian. But I'm still a big sinner. I'll admit. That's why it's going to be a tall order."

Today, Romo has another role. He calls himself an "executor," twisting the arms of employees, executives or friends to contribute, and most often, AKF's passionate with great pleasure in the faces of well-dressed ladies...something he seems to take some delight in.

"It's really like extracting a tooth," he says, laughing. "It hurts, and you tell them, 'open your mouth!' But really, you want to tell some of these women to please stop buying all that jewelry, or just hand over one of those diamonds so we can give it to the dogs. It looks horrible on you, any way."

Seriously, Romo says, "I don't know if it would be realistic to expect people who have eating all their lives to stop. It may just be a matter of education, but that may take generations."

He has the perception of native dogs as inferior. "They're just as wonderful and intelligent as any pedigreed animal," he says. "It has, we can learn everything about life from just watching a dog, any dog. They are really so much better than you and me."

Strike a pose

Although he cannot take any more dogs in his house because of Baby's condition, Boni has two rescues "adopted" over shelter dog, Abba, providing for all her needs. Today, smoke-colored Abba and black-and-white Aaron, two of AKF's oldest shelter dogs and the center's official mascots, are scheduled to pose with their benefactor.

The two, with five other dogs, were rescued from a cramped cage and certain death in Pangasinan in June 2006, when AKF operatives posing as dog meat buyers arranged to "purchase" them from a dealer about to sell them to a restaurant. Disguised by pedicab drivers. The restaurant owner submitted to slaughtering about five dogs a day to feed his customers. The trader was caught in the act and charged with violation of the Animal Welfare Act.

Abba is agitated from the trip, and even shelter manager Lizel Mendoza and mascots, vet Dr. Rafaund Antigua's get her to relax. Then, the dogs get called into the library for the shoot, and Abba goes straight for Romo, who affectionate touches his nose with love.

"Hello, sweetheart," murmurs Romo in the gentlest of voices, stroking her head, and Abba calms down for the picture. It's a long way from a doomed dog's cage to this opulent library, but Abba knows a good heart when she sees one, wherever it may be.

If you want to help the Animal Kingdom Foundation fight the illegal dog meat trade or if you want to give a rescued dog a new life through adoption, call (0920) 9851510, the shelter at 045-6326885, e-mail akfphilippines@gmail.com or visit www.animalkingdomfoundation.org.

St. Padre Pio relic to be enshrined in Batangas church

THE 88TH ANNIVERSARY OF St. Padre Pio on May 23 is a special day for the parishioners of Santo Padre and Birhen ng Isang Bituin, Batangas. Its parish priest, Fr. Jojo Bonda, received a first-class relic of Padre Pio last March 21 when he went to San Giovanni Rotondo (saint-shrine) pilgrims. Fr. Bonda—a Capuchin, OFM Capuchin, the only living priest who had been with Padre Pio when the saint was still alive—gave the relic to Fr. Jojo. The relic will be enshrined in the church of Padre Pio in Sto. Tomas and will be unveiled that day.

Last March 4 to 18, the pilgrimage arranged by Pacific Grand Travel, which is owned by Carlo Bolano, brought Fr. Jojo and the group to Galilee, Bethlehem, and Rome, with legislators and striking players were Bolano, Lucban, Lanzanas, Anna, Loreto, Stone and San Gabriel Bonda.

Mass at the crypt

Fr. Jojo was given permission to celebrate Mass at the crypt of Padre Pio not only for the Filipino pilgrims but for those from other nations as well. He said he was trembling when he was saying the Mass. He also have asked the Capuchin priest to pray so he will be able to finish building the church in Sto. Tomas, Batangas. Fr. Bonda told him to pray to Padre Pio for help. When Fr. Jojo asked the Capuchin priest if he would visit

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Durong

the church when it's already built, Fr. Bonda said "yes."

Airline fare paid for

When Fr. Jojo wooed his convictions about the airline fare for Fr. Bonda to his sister Sonia Gloria, travel agent Carl Bolano and Charley and Tina Suarez until immediately that they will take care of the priest's round-trip airline fare, pick him up at the airport, give him accommodations and bring him to the blessing of the statue.

'Salakot'-shaped church

Fr. Jojo envisions the new church to be in the shape of a "salakot." Salakot is a local hat. The altar will be on one side, but in the middle of the church will be the Adoration Center of the archdiocese of Lipa. The Cross has two faces. One side is the image of the Holy Trinity and the other side is the image of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. Carl Bolano will sponsor it.

Fr. Jojo feels he was not just called to build the church of Padre Pio, but also to spread the mission to keep the spirit, message and life of Padre Pio's union with Christ alive—in him, the parishioners, believers and devotees of this great and holy man and priest.

Santa Quiteria

The Philippines has a parish dedicated to Santa Quiteria, edecoeldolentes but feast day on May 22, particularly in Cabuyao City. The parish of St. Francis of Assisi and Santa Quiteria (where the barrios of Mamatid, Banaba and Santa Quiteria, and is located on Santa Quiteria Road, Cabuyao). Parish priest is Fr. Rudy Blanco, who will lead the celebration with a Mass and procession at 6 a.m. on May 22 and another Mass at 6 p.m.

Liezl Bonoso told me she has been a devotee of the saint since she was a little girl. And she resides in the affluencias nuevere, one of the saints in her church in Cabuyao. the saint is portrayed as beheaded and holding her head in her right hand. But the photo we will see in this page shows what Santa Quiteria looks like in other churches in Spain and Portugal.

Legend of Santa Quiteria

Portuguese religious traditions state that Santa Quiteria was one of nine sisters born at the same time, and they were called the "nine wonder sisters." They were named Serafina (Diaphenia), Liberata (Olegebria), Grata (Martha, Margarida), Eventina, Germana, Basilissa, Marcia and Victoria (Victoria). They were born in Sevilla to an important fa-

SANTA Quiteria, virgin and martyr

mily. They subsequently waged a guerrilla war on the occupation against the Roman Empire.

Quiteria was caught and beheaded. Miraculously however, her body rose up, grabbed her head with her hands, climbed a mountain and stopped in the place where she wanted to be buried. The church in Cabuyao portrays her image as beheaded with her right hand holding her head.

CAPUCHIN priest Fr. Bonifacio di Capua with Fr. Jojo Gonda of Santa Padre Pio Parish in Sto. Tomas, Batangas

Healing Masses

Fr. Orlando Cacas will hold a Healing Mass at 6 p.m. today at the Plight to Fight Parish in Tanauan, Batangas. On May 22 at 5 p.m., Fr. Cacas will be at the Immaculate Conception Parish in San Pablo City.

The Archdiocesan Shrine of Insarita Señora de Gozo will celebrate its fiesta on May 19 with a High Mass at 6 p.m. Cardinal Rosales will officiate.

Fr. Benigno Benabarre, OSB–95 years, and going strong

By Jaime T. Licsano
LSB '52, MS '58, Elementary '54

ON MAY 23, FR. BENIGNO BENABARRE, OSB, a Spanish Benedictine priest of San Beda College, will be 95 years old. That's just five years shy of a century.

When I came to the school for grades in the '50s, Fr. Benabarre was already the elementary school principal. When I finished high school in 1958, he was still the principal. When I graduated from college in 1962, he was still there.

After college, I lost touch with my school for a long time. I found out that Fr. Benabarre left for Spain when the school-and-dormitories-complex was Philippinized. Only one Spanish priest was left behind, but I had forgotten his name.

Many of the Spanish priests I had known during my school days began dying one after another that we never heard of what happened to Fr. Benabarre. We simply presumed he had died because of the advanced age at that time.

Then, when I came to teach again in San Beda College in 2005, I was shocked to see Fr. Benabarre back in school, very much alive and talking exactly the same way I remembered him when I was in the elementary grades. His face, although much older, still retained the same basic recognizable features. When I had a chance to talk to him, I told him: "You are immortal!"

Born on May 23, 1915, in the province of Huesca, Spain, José Dionisio Benabarre adopted the name "Benigno" when he became a priest in 1936. He obtained his AB degree from

FR. BENIGNO Benabarre, OSB

Mount Angel in Oregon, USA, his MA at the Catholic University of America in Washington, and his PhD at Centro Escolar University in Manila. He continued his studies and obtained his Bachiller degree from the Universidad de Salamanca and his Perito En Liturgia at the Universidad de Castilla in Madrid.

He has held various administrative positions in San Beda College, such as Director/Disciplinarian, Principal of the Elementary Department, Assistant Moderator of the Alumni Association. A prolific writer, he has published books and pamphlets totaling over 3000 pages. He still manages to write a weekly article in the Hermano de Puerto Rico.

His accomplishments are actually too numerous to mention here. He has entrusted all of them in his autobiographical booklet titled "From Shepherd of Goats to Pastor of Souls," which he published on May 23, 2008, his 93rd birthday.

James Cagney,' as he was known, is a living legend of a Benedictine monk

Recollections

Perhaps the best ways to get to know the real character and personality of this tireless benedictine priest is to hear it from some alumni as they remember him. I texted some of my '58 high school classmates and also a few older graduates, and the replies I got were so varied and colorful as the Mardi Gras.

"Fr. Benabarre was a respected disciplinarian who nobody in well, but he also had a soft heart for those who needed it. He always scolded to my reasons for much sought-after blunder (theirs is the 1HC-Ateneo basketball game)."—Arturo Macapagal (HS '56)

"Fr. Benabarre nicknamed Bin 13 (after his desk) was considered to be disciplinarian's nemesis no. 1 do-all knew what went on in Bin 13 since I was never one there. He was called James Cagney,' maybe because of his resemblance to the actor. He was strict, he disciplined students quite a number of students from SBC."—Br. Antonio T. Llenares (Elementary Class '49, HS '53, HS Moderator)

"Fr. Benabarre was the most energetic of all the Spanish priests, always moving around and minding other people's business."—Fito Puzon (HS '58)

"He was an ultimate disciplinarian. Infact, very active, like Wikiki."—Ramon Amon (HS '54)

"Fr. Benabarre is better than a horror! Let me explain. For Fr. Benabarre, his number one ad-visual hate. No matter how you make a hairy drink, he smirk. If he has had enough. So, my son, don't have one too many because then a horror will be over!' As a Bedan, Fr. Benabarre stands tall to me as the formidable link between the old SBC and the 21st century Bedan. The formidable mouth is a living legend."—Jose Baglioni (AB '58)

"Charismatic, he was not. He was not like Sts. Rojo, Lopez, Machitos, Meda, Hildegaard and many others. I mean, did anybody see Fr. B. smile? His image was that of a Doctor, uncompromising disciplinarian, to be feared and avoided. But the reality was, he never lifted a hand or even raised his voice. He commanded discipline and signed of excellence. In all probability, he cared for us to a more personal way than we could ever imagine."—Roberto Booth Benavidez, MD (AB '58 Valedictorian)

PARADOLS adorn the Taiwan booth.

PLAWA weaver exhibitizing performer at the Philippine booth

DOT DIRECTOR and Team Europe Head Verna Buensuceso, Gov. Go-C, and Tourism Promotions Board (PTB) Chairman Ramon Jacinto with Philippine Tourism Attache Renee Tan and DOT PR officer Dulce Gonzalez

Berlin trade show features Philippine culture

THE PHILIPPINES PARTICIPATED IN THE 2010 International Tourism Bourse (ITB) held at the Messe Studio Exhibition Grounds in Germany, bringing with it the country's cultural colorful culture.

One of the world's leading trade shows, the 44th ITB Berlin had over 130,000 trade visitors, and over 11,000 travel stakeholders from 187 countries.

The event opened with a grand performance by the resident country, Turkey, by Fire of Anatolia, a popular Turkish dance group which presented 2026, a colorful show which brought the Western and Eastern cultures together.

The successful exhibit was well-appreciated from all tourism segments, which were largely leisure, MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibition), and business travel. Tourism stakeholders, which included tour operators, airline companies, hotels, new technology services and suppliers also showed a strong presence. More than 7,000 accredited journalists, multi-media and communication professionals from 99 countries covered the five-day event.

According to Tourism Secretary Ace Durano: "We are proud to be part of the world's leading tourism trade event. It is an important platform where foreigners and international guests can get a glimpse of our country's distinctive culture."

The world's leading trade fair for the international travel industry revealed an extremely positive attention for the year. David Ihaza, senior manager ITB Berlin said: "After welcome development is the fact that the proportion of foreign trade visitors from Asia and Africa has more than doubled. This is largely attributable to the expanding ITB World Day in South Africa, and to the ITB Asia."

According to Undersecretary Eduardo Jaime Jr.: "For the year, the ITB is tapping the luxury spending market. Does the segment of wealthy European holiday-makers."

On the part of Director Verna Buensuceso, Team Europe Head, she said, "We have acquired much needed information on Wiz's United. The market for mobile travel services is growing at a breath-taking pace, and ITB Berlin is the first trade fair for the travel industry that is providing it with a separate platform."

The DOT presented the country's 7,107 islands of sun, sea and sand—a welcome destination for European travelers escaping winter. More than diving, trekking, caving and other adventure sports, the DOT also offered newer tourism packages like bird watching.

The Philippine booth featured the colorful culture of the South. A performer playing the musical instrument, kulintang, and a traditional Blaan weaver were among the highlights of the exhibits.

Another colorful event that rode the show at the ITB was the Lesbian and Gay travel segment, which featured interesting characters, dressed in flamboyant outfits.

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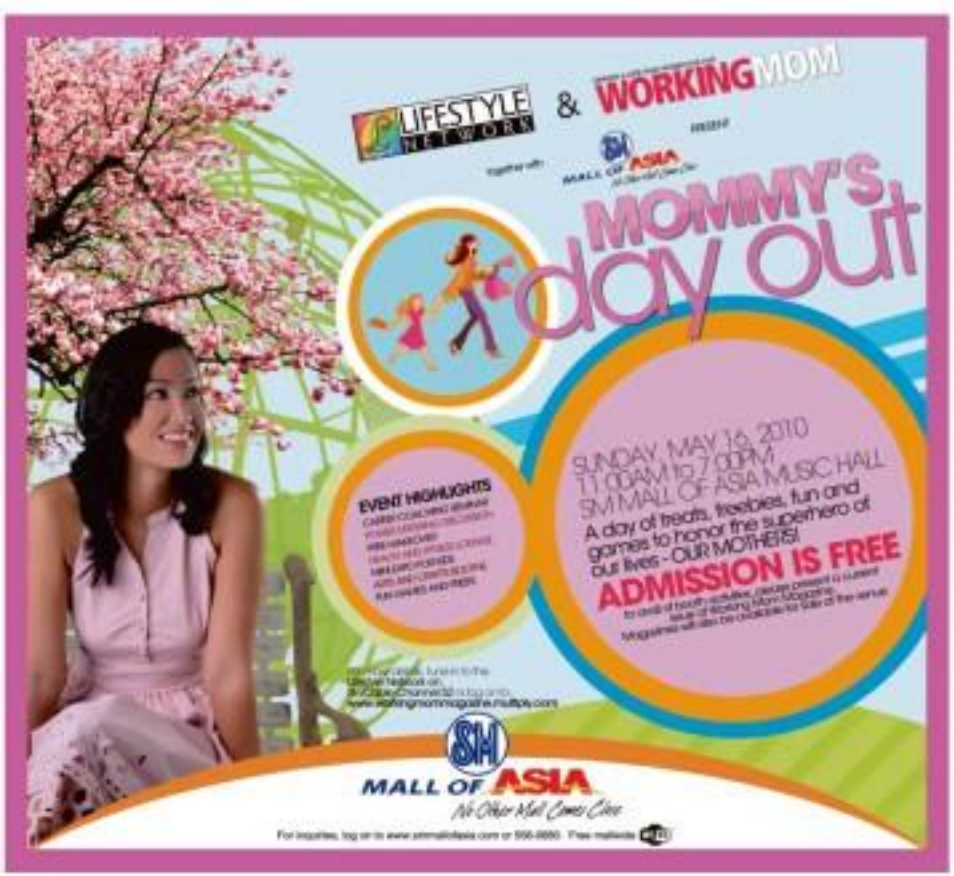

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Fr. Benigno Benabaere, OSB–95 years, and going strong /C3

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

THE LOFT bedroom at Casas de Acuzar

Go back in time and have a great vacation with your family at Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar

KALESAS go around the resort on schedule to add to the resort's vintage Filipiniana feel.

Bataan resort's Old World charm

By Ronna Capili
Contributor

LAS CASAS FILIPinas de Acuzar in Bagac, Bataan, is a unique resort. It's a replica of an old Filipino town with ancestral homes and buildings dating from the 18th to the early 20th century. There are no power lines and driving lanes, only horsepower and cobblestone roads.

Upon entry to the resort, one is instantly transported at least a hundred years back. Gon Montes serves as the reception lobby while the prized Cast Bronzettes is reminiscent of bits and pieces of the country's European influences. The most notable detail, however, is the stillness of this little historical backgrounds of a town.

Past life

Hotel manager TE Sobico said, "We want to introduce what the Filipinos had before, not what's modern." The tranquil environment, a forgotten luxury, is just one of Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar's offerings. And Acuzar, the resort's owners classified on the business because of his constant search for promoted and got at getaways with his own family, but local resorts always seemed full. He first built a real house designed like an ancestral home and, soon after, was offered to buy and refurbish old Filipino houses. More than 10 years later, Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar has been opened for day trips and overnight guests in its 22 houses, a number that continues to grow.

"Our objective is to preserve and showcase our past," Sobico said. The ancestral houses have remained 85-90 percent of its original

(BASAH 1)

The Bronze and Sculpture alliance of the Philippines, Inc. (BSAPI) presents the 1st Molly Mangahas/Bronze and Sculpture Cup, Flower and Garden Show, in cooperation with the Quezon Memorial Circle Management.

Date and Venue: June 26 to June 27, 2010 at Quezon Memorial Circle, Quezon City. Open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Apart from bronze and sculpture exhibits there will be ornamental landscaping with a commercial section. On-the-spot Painting Contest and daily lecture demonstrations on the various aspects of gardening for the conservation and enhancement of nature-most especially concerning the environment's accumulate change with free talks for prizes of framed materials, sweets and many others for the show goers.

SEE THE BEST BONSAI IN THE COUNTRY AND KNOW WHAT GLOBING ARE. For more info call the Secretariat at 9917-5109/781 Letty Logon, 0906-3451167 Molly Mangahas and 9917-5151/88 David Du, Email "Letty Ilgon" <lettyilgon_comsat@yahoo.com>

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We're more beautiful with Red Ribbon

TAGA, where macabebeans can swim and do a 15-foot jump into the sea

HOUSES utilizes 85-90 percent of its original materials.

Bataan resort's Old World charm

From page D1

while the rest are replicated according to research, using native and modern Philippine hardwood. Houses originate from the northern part of the Philippines and Luzon such as Pampanga, Bulacan and Ilocos.

"We may taken some of these houses anywhere and not a lot it knew how to restore it," Solvas said. Arsanat's experience in construction at board chair of Ima Jose Builders Inc. has given him the knowledge on how to preserve them.

"We want to preserve and showcase our past," Solvas said. Some of the houses were previously left to deteriorate before it was acquired by Arsanat. The other structures have been a shelter for informal settlers. "Some of these who've seen the houses in their original/ business have said that now, the houses are able to breathe again," she said.

The skillfully crafted architecture and intricacies of the past are now showcased in Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar. "Yung iyong, pag binubuwan mo, dalang gumagamda," Solvas said. Some of the interiors that thrilled or were destroyed through time have been restituted, but always in the same tradition as it was originally created.

The resort was designed to "showcase every corner of the house and its different periods," Solvas said. Each house in Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar boasts of a rich history and the hotel and resort management's research team is devoted to learning and uncovering its different stories. Dubbed as *Las Casitas* is one of the resort's luxurious suites.

"Each house has a story," Solvas said. Casa Lolita, for example, one of the more feminine houses in the resort boasting with floral furniture and wall and ceiling décor, produced generations of powerful women. Casa Hidalgo, the most beautiful mansion in its time and the first school of UP Fine Arts, was once the studio of Amorsolo. Casa Juan, on the other hand, still bears bullet holes from uncaptured assassin as the governor general who lived in it.

Casa Juan, from Quezon, was recently restored by a descendant of the Esquivel family who previously owned it. As a young woman, she promised herself to buy the house because of her childhood memories. But it was sold before she could acquire it. An article published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer led her to its new home, and Solvas recalled she was teary-eyed upon seeing the house in all its former glory. "She was happy that it was well preserved," she said.

WALL sculpture by Cabi Marbon depicting life during the Spanish era

THE RESORT'S Isaia-designed pool

PASIG de Escuela at night

More than history

As a fully functioning resort, Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar offers not just education but also rest and recreation. Water sports can be availed, as the resort is situated right next to the shore, and a farm-to-table dining area is available for guests to avail. Cave Capayas, the house on stilts, will soon be offering traditional massages or bike for guests.

Traditional games such as sungka, patintero, and bamboo or Lola Basyang will also be offered to teach and remind guests that a simple and quiet lifestyle can still be enjoyed despite our fast-paced life and highly technological ways. But one everything is done and old in Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar.

A quick boat ride of less than 30 minutes to Subic, a different area of the same destination the resort is located in, will satisfy guests who love the outdoors. It offers a cool swimming spot and 15-foot jump-off point into the clear blue waters. Guests can also have lunch at the picnic area at Yoni's Higher grounds with a view of the mountains, sky and South China Sea.

Soon Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar will open its doors for functions and corporate events. "We want to offer an opportunity to do away with modern structures," Solvas said.

Art history

A large part of the resort's charm and authenticity lies in its artwork. Dag Gerrido is the resort's in-house artist and heads a team of 15 artists. He directs and designs the furniture, paintings and interiors, and has been residing in the compound for the last nine years.

Reclaimed furniture is also made of Philippine hardwood, copying the antique designs during the Spanish era. The new wood is used as room are taken from old houses. "Pinapanahon namin yung mga lumang bahay at hindi kami gumagamit ng mga mali para sa furniture, kahoy lang," Gerrido said.

Though Gerrido is known to be a multi-awarded painter, he does oil paintings for Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar to stay true to traditions. In progress, Gerrido also had to research on art history and the previous styles. Interior paintings have been fashioned also according to the design artifacts of each house's era. "Dapat tumak makalit yung mga nakaga ng mga illustrado," Gerrido said.

Casa Hidalgo is the artists' studio, from which Gerrido benefits from the house's rich history. "Ang sarap ng feeling na sila Amorsolo, also suggestive. Barbi gabi, balangkas na sa kanila ka lang sila," he said.

Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar will soon be following the period theme of each house with restaurants serving the delicacies of their origin and attendants dressed in period uniforms. Each house will also have an assigned nanang to attend to housekeeping needs, such as shoe shine and ironing with charcoal and banana leaves.

"There are some to encourage family bonding, because these days it's the norm that both parents are working because of cost and quality of life than anything time with their family. We want to give them an opportunity to bond and for the parents to talk to the children and tell them of what they used to have," Solvas said, emphasizing the beauty of a simple, content life.

UNIQUE honeymoon arrangements at Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar

ONE of Pasig de Escuela's bedrooms decorated for honeymooners

HEART-SHAPED mirror, a romantic detail for honeymooners

GET the best of both worlds with a comfortable bed and ancestral home-like surroundings.

TV HOST Lucy Alvarez

CROSSALLE Presents

MS. FILIPINA 2010 Jennifer Bartlett

BLOGGER Audrey Dee

TRISTAM Bevan Hawkins

SM Food Council—a new breed of supermarket shoppers

IF YOU HAPPEN TO DROP BY SM Supermarket for your grocery needs, don't be surprised to find celebrity chef Tristam Encarnacion doing a cooking demonstration, or beauty queens Jennifer Bartlett or Shamcey Supsup with shoppers for fitness diet at fresh fruits, or to find yourself in the same aisle with celebrities Paulo Avelino and Iza Calzado. Chances are, you're not just in close encounter with members of the SM Food Council.

Organized and promoted by SM Supermarket on its 25th anniversary, the SM Food Council is a new breed of savvy supermarket shoppers who will not only go to SM for perishables, Hypermarket or Savemore Market! but their presence, but also regards their wish to have shoppers their experiences in trying out new store innovations and promotions.

"The SM Food Council is a group of 25 young, talented, food-inclined who are not only represent the vibrant and fresh outlook of SM Supermarket but also influence the brand choices of their peers. These ambassadors exemplify the ideals of what the SM brand stands for—leading the way, visionary, and always moving forward," said Rendolfo Ty of SM Supermarket.

"With the help of the SM Food Council, shoppers will hopefully be more informed about products and services so they can make the right decisions on what to buy," he added.

The SM Food Council will serve as a consumer panel that will regularly meet with customers to discuss new items, share insights, and suggest ways to improve the supermarket's products and services. They will also be the supermarket's partner in providing evolving technologies and consumption trends into the stores.

As the new faces of SM Supermarket, the Food Council members will also be part of the whole SM Food Group (SM Supermarket, Hypermarket and Savemore Market) events and community projects. They, as such, will learn the supermarket's as per their strengths as a source for their advancement and community activities.

The SM Food Council members include celebrity couple Paulo Avelino and Iza Calzado; exercise chef Jeanne Lascano; Cambodia gold medalist Paul Jose Ortega; Camille Miselis and Jhaine Lagman, court-side reporter Erika Flores; foodie Gene Boylan Ventanilla, entrepreneurs Orlando Hamoy, Jessie Yap and Kim Jo Reyes, and theatre actress Viola Martinez.

THE SM FOOD Council celebrates with SM Supermarket on its 25th anniversary.

Also part of the SM Food Council are Internet marketing guru Aaron Titus; journalist Ramon Constantino; beauty editor Kim Polestico; motivational speaker and author Lloyd Lariosa; exclusive stylists Audrey Bautista, chef and foodie Brand Medina, model Jef Gaitan, IT professional Angeli Marchan, celebrity chef Tristam Encarnacion; TV host Love Rhoren; search engine consultant Arlene Apollo; beauty queen Arnalfe Bautista; and fashion Harold Talgencio.

The SM Food Council members were chosen for their achievements, valuable contributions in their respective fields, and positive influence among their contemporaries, aside from being loyal SM Supermarket shoppers.

Shangri-La Stopover promo

SHANGRI-LA HOTELS AND RESORTS in the Philippines offer Shangri-La Stopover with Air 30. Local residents can stay here as a resort or another one from a selection of P5,500 per night at Shangri-La Mactan Resort and Spa, and original discounted rate of P6,000 per night at Shangri-La Makati, Manila.

The same rate covers packages includes breakfast buffet for two persons, complimentary broadband Internet access, in-room DVD entertainment system, and airport transfers and access to the Executive Club, where guests are provided privileges like personal check-in and check-out, complimentary beverages throughout the day, other services, use of executive lounge and spa and use of the swimming pool.

Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa also offers guests executive suite accommodation, breakfast buffet for two persons, complimentary broadband Internet access, airport transfers and access to the Executive Club, where guests are provided privileges like personal check-in and check-out, complimentary beverages throughout the day, other services, use of executive lounge and spa and use of the swimming pool at the Spa.

Shangri-La's Makati, Manila's executive room package includes a ride from Executive Suite with a view of the Manila Bay skyline. Other also includes breakfast buffet for two persons, complimentary broadband Internet access, in-room DVD entertainment system, and full use of the Executive Club Lounge with beverages and hot private check-in and check-out, complimentary cultural evening event at their Lounge service, drinks, beverages, pre-dinner cocktails and late check-out at 6 pm.

The Shangri-La Stopover promotion is subject to availability of rooms at the time of booking. Other blackout dates apply. Offer does not include other charges. Offer does not be combined with other promotions.

Call Robin Shangri-La at 6328888, Makati Shangri-La at 8108888, Shangri-La's Mactan Resort and Spa at 2320288 and Traders Hotel, Manila, 523-7301. Visit www.shangri-la.com.

Pampering treatments at Sun Spa Boracay

Sun Spa is now located in White Beach, Station 1, near the beach.

The facility has spa, which offers both the scrub and massage treatments and aromatherapy. Most of the Sun Spa are headed by highly-trained and experienced therapists.

Aside from the White Beach, Station 1 branch, the Sun Spa may also be found at the Sun Spa Express at The Sun Village Center in Station 2 near D'Mall. D'Boracay and The Sun Spa Premier at The Sun Villa along the Main Road near D' Talipapa.

The Sun Spa Premier at The Sun Villa, offers also shuttle service. Call 3150209, 5141030/3150209/3150210/3150211.

Singapore inks new tourism tack with YourSingapore

The Singapore Tourism Board (STB) has changed Singapore's destination brand from "Uniquely Singapore" to "YourSingapore," which overlooks Singapore's strengths as a destination.

"YourSingapore is to inspire Singapore's unique experience offered as an emotional mark of empowerment and allow visitors that discover what travelers seek—a personal travel experience. Carries personalized travel experience offered as emotional mark of empowerment and allow visitors that discover what travelers seek—a personal travel experience.

At the heart of the campaign is a holistic digital approach that includes social media, blogger engagement, mobile and social media, as well as Internet commercials screened to visitors, from the planning stage to the actualization of their trip.

The website, www.yoursingapore.com, is an interactive platform that allows travelers to view photos and take their individual Singapore travel itinerary in a user-friendly manner. It facilitates sharing of experiences among travelers and local residents alike, and will be powered by up-to-date travel content about all things Singapore. The website will deliver a new virtual experience for other destination websites currently online.

Visit www.yourSingapore.com.

Skinnovations at Beauty by SM

Proper skin care is the key to radiant, glowing, younger looking skin. And with today's beauty innovations, it is easy for women to look good and feel good. Here Beauty by SM shares with us some skin care secrets, and must-have products for every age. Check these skinnovations at the Beauty by SM section of all SM Department Stores.

20's

With the acne-prone stage of adolescence behind them, young women in their twenties can look forward to more radiant and well-toned skin. This is the best time to start a daily skin care routine of cleaning, exfoliating, and moisturizing, which will lay the foundation of younger looking skin in the future.

Another way to "prepare" your skin for the future is to protect yourself from exposure to the sun, which is one of the key causes of premature aging. The sun's UVA rays damage collagen fibers and elastin cells in the skin, and it's best to get into the habit of applying daily sunscreen or moisturizers with SPF.

Neutrogena Ultra Sheer lightweight lotion with SPF 15 is ideal for daily use

Oil-free scrub and cleanser to fight blackheads and blemishes

Gentle exfoliating scrub and moisturizers from Clinelle Professional Care

Pond's Flawless White Deep Whitening Facial Foam, Spot-Blocking Serum and Visible Lightening Day Cream for YMD-E3 for maximum skin lightening

30's

When you are in your 30s, the effects of the sun's UVA rays and pollution, as well as stress, smoking, and alcohol begin to take their toll. These environmental and external factors create free radicals that break down collagen and elastin, causing skin to become less firm and elastic. And you can keep your skin hydrated and radiant by drinking plenty of water and maintaining a balanced diet rich in Vitamins A, B, C, and E.

With fine lines and wrinkles beginning to appear, now is the best time to introduce anti-oxidant rich products into your skin care regimen. Beauty by SM suggests that you exfoliate and moisturize even more as cell turnover is slower at this stage, taking longer span of time for dead skin to shed.

This is also the time when fine lines, dark under-eye circles, and puffiness appear around the eyes where the skin is thinner and more sensitive. Treat your eyes to a gentle eye cream that contains sunscreen and antioxidants.

Nivea Visage Q10 Plus Anti-Wrinkle System replenishes skin's youthful smoothness

Fight wrinkles and adult acne with this anti-aging and moisturizing facial mask enriched with Ginkgo and Ginseng extracts

Herbal Grape Seed moisturizing mask with antioxidants for younger-looking skin

Himalaya Herbals Refreshing Fruit Pack and Purifying Mud Pack firms, tightens and rejuvenates facial skin

L'Oréal Revitalift Anti-Wrinkle and Firming Day Cream with SPF 15 contains pro-retinol & and elastin to stimulate collagen and reduce fine lines

40's

Olay Regenerist Micro-Sculpting Cream smoothens skin's surface, restores elasticity and firms sagging-prone areas with its amino-peptide formula

Olay Regenerist 4-hour treatment strengthens, lifts and re-contours skin

Nivea Visage DNAge Anti-Age System contains Folic Acid and Creatine to stimulate healthy cell renewal

"Bi-Modifine Instant Deep Wrinkle Filler evens out and smoothens away the deepest, most visible lines and wrinkles with its unique combination of filling cream and spherical powders

Skin care in your 40s is all about rejuvenation. This is the time when collagen fibers decrease, stiffen, and break apart. Your skin loses elasticity and becomes more fragile, causing crevices, furrows, and wrinkles to form. Accumulated sun exposure can lead to blotchiness and dark spots.

But all is not lost. You can develop a complete skin care system to nourish and moisturize your skin with creams, lotions, and serums containing anti-oxidants and peptides that strengthen collagen. The skin's ability to maintain moisture and produce oil also declines, and Beauty by SM recommends a rich moisturizing cream with hyaluronic acid, petrolatum, or shea butter to prevent dry, dull skin.

Eyiplex-2 is a dual-solution, 24-hour system that tightens eye areas and reduces dark circles

Sunday LIFESTYLE Relationships

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IN THIS ISSUE

■ **On menopause** and the loss of hankies / E2

EMILY'S POST *Emily A. Marcelo*

■ **Should a mother** leave her baby for work abroad? / E2

ROOTS AND WINGS *Cathy Babao-Cabello*

■ **How Pinoys celebrate** and grieve over election results on Facebook / E2

LACOSTE

un peu d'air sur terre

RUSTAN'S MAKATI • RUSTAN'S TOWER • AYALA CENTER, CEBU
CORTE DE LAS PALMAS (ALABANG TOWN CENTER) • GREENBELT 3 • ROBINSONS GALLERIA
ROBINSONS PLACE MANILA • SM MEGAMALL, BLDG. B • TRINOMA • THE POWER PLANT (ROCKWELL CENTER)
THE PODIUM • GATEWAY MALL, ARANETA CENTER • SM MALL OF ASIA • EASTWOOD MALL, EASTWOOD CITY • SM DAVAO

On menopause and the loss of hankies

By Dulce V. Aritcuvenas
Contributor

DOES THIS LADY look like she has menopause?

Do you think she has hot flashes? Do you think she is going through hormone replacement therapy? Do you think her urinary tract got a little thinner so her urine comes out like a bullet? Do you think she has dry eye syndrome where her tear ducts are shut so she has to put eye drops once in a while to make them cry again?

How's that for menopause?

I call that Estrogen Power. Look at the business world in the Philippines: Most CEO's and presidents of companies are women. Therefore, Estrogen Power.

I call that Estrogen Power

Business is really tough these days. And that's an understatement. But the Estrogen Queens are up there making sure their businesses are up the ladder and running more. More.

Ummm, you think the word menopause is for women? Women never panic. If we do, it's in bed hands on our sides like Ignacio, other than being with Estrogen CEOs who have come to trust you and discuss pain strategies for not having your companies suffer menopause.

Then, all those Power Plants go for what you please them because their secretaries (who are Choices than Barbie) say they are in worldwide meetings with them on CEOs in London, South Africa, Bangkok, Hong Kong. And maybe even in Iceland, before THAT volcano just couldn't take it anymore and erupt to extinguish every chi-chi entitlement and what down the asthma industry for days. Pretty much like a woman.

Stop, that's what menopause is. It's the person we are where you have stopped and then we crawl the many ones mom to be what you really are meant to be. And not only to be CEO. To be mommy who use hankies and then, not.

Extinct hankie

Our women today do not know what hankies are. All they know is that when they sneeze, cry or pour ketchup on their shirt (instead of on the omelette) they reach out for Otex (some papers or table napkins. They also use tissues to dab away tears and blow their noses into oblivion.

When I was studying at the College of the Holy Spirit, run by German nuns (you, of course, know the implications), we wore a uniform with two pockets on both sides of it. The left pocket was strictly for our wallet, and the right strictly for our handkerchief. We needed to a terrible trouble if something happened and we didn't have a hanky on our right pocket!

Ladies at that time and since used handkerchiefs of beautiful materials and designs, for cold many days, you had her names sewn with embroidery on the sides.

If you were going to a ball, you would have one made of the same beautiful Filipiniana woven fabric, pina, and a slip flaw or peeking from the strands. You couldn't blow your nose to on it (for obvious reasons) but you could daintily hold it on your right hand, sometimes dabbing your face for effect.

But for to new girls and Tweens we had baubles to wipe our sweet off. Very practical during those summers, right? And if we tried for effect on our boyfriends, we could get out practical hankies and fish out those which were easily absorbed by the sweat and the flower design on it, coming out in a phenomenal way.

The problem with handkerchiefs is that you have to launder them, and if there are stains from careless ketchup spills, you throw that hanky away. The way you throw a memory if they have blood stains on them.

Hankies: Just like a woman's menopause, in one sometimes there.

But the dominions is still there and so is the strength of a woman who doesn't wipe her tears and save them flow down her cheeks.

Yes, the woman no top is to her menopause years. But to wipe her purse are classic.

Because you can't use hankies to wipe solar stains in the mall.

That's why hankies died. Because of the baths.

But mind you, menopause will never go away. It's like we don't die, it only comes when you're ready for it.

How Pinoys celebrate and grieve over election results on Facebook

ELECTIONS ARE LIKE BELA dienships that come in an end. There are winners and losers. You get a sense of when you meet comrades at let go. You grieve the loss then you move on.

As far as I can recall, this is one election that has generated so much interesting so much passion from young and old alike. I recently woke up on the morning of May 10, feeling hopeful, excited to vote. I had survived the hot way in any of the previous elections. When the clock struck 7 p.m., I went to several precincts to watch the PCOS machines spit out the names of the winners. I organized at some of the counts, except at others.

The next two days I stayed up glued to the television, like a young woman waiting for her beloved to return. Then the dust began to settle, and it became clear who were close to surrender and let go. And so followed a brief period of disbelief—there could that happen? Where did we go wrong? With no tangible solution, a period of waiving, waving, and mourning ensued—done endless time the fluxes of the world's most famous social networking site, Facebook (FB).

Facebook therapy

It was simply amazing to observe and participate in the discussions that followed. The day after elections, my FB wall was relatively quiet. My 464 plus friends came from different colors of the political spectrum. In the days leading to May 10, my newsfeed was flooded by some color coded, some more passionate than others. On May 11, suddenly, the wall became empty quite. I'd like to think that those who won did so...not at my space for their friends who had lost or were on their way to losing a hard fought battle. And with the 50 mark still hanging in the balance, as of this writing, there is still a sense of limbo for most of the citizens on our FB wall.

What was interesting though was the way FB was used as a therapeutic tool by those of us who had losing candidates. Some of them became their secretaries (who are Choices than Barbie) say they are in worldwide meetings with them on CEOs in London, South Africa, Bangkok, Hong Kong. And maybe even in Iceland, before THAT volcano just couldn't take it anymore and erupt to extinguish every chi-chi entitlement and what down the asthma industry for days. Pretty much like a woman.

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Roots and Wings

Cathy Babao-Gubalta

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Should a mother leave her baby for work abroad?

Emily's Post

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

And after a year of marriage, a relative of mine who lives abroad has decided to separate from her husband.

Her reason is my her back in another country for a better future for their son. I never leaving her child behind. The baby is just seven months old. Someone is willing to care for the child in the Philippines.

Should she take the baby with her while she is trying her luck in a new place or leave the child temporarily in the Philippines and just come back for her when she's ready financially?

TY

It's a "damned if you do, damned if you don't" scenario. If she brings this child abroad, she will need to have her with a babysitter (who could charge an unit and a leg) or a day care center (which can also be expensive). If she decides to leave the child in the Philippines, it may be cheaper but the big physical separation is not going to be good for her and/or her son.

As the saying goes "The road is full is paved with good intentions." Going abroad to work will definitely put money in her bank account—if she knows how to handle it.

However, there are so many distractions, seductions, threats (one—of being abroad, and being alone and possibly lonely could make her noble plans in life for her and the child go astray.

To leave a vastly vulnerable being—her young kid—to whatever, no matter how nurturing they are, could never ever come close to the threat, someone and promises of a mother. This child needs! need to hear her voice, feel the tightness of her embrace, see the caring, the understanding or even the fear in her eyes, a smell her flesh—to truly feel her devotion and love. Money can never be a substitute or appointment any of these.

Why not let her try but fail right here? Living expenses may be tough, but with parents, perseverance, hard-work and brain, it's been proven that it can be done. She may not enable a solution but she can be creative to make ends meet, just as she and her child can have a life together. The long and short of it is she has to make the hard decision...and it should not be on the side of guilt.

E-mail emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph; SUBJECT LINE: TITLE.

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Include the names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a short of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, PO. Box 4203 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

ALFONSO-BUENO

Jamil Bueno and **Clarissa Alfonso** exchanged marriage vows on May 14 at the Cure Beatific Eucharistic Sanctuary in Davao, Cavite. The groom is the son of Alfredo and Regina Bueno, while the bride is the daughter of Jose and Avelina Alfonso.

REYES-LIMJAN

Lina Reyes, daughter of David Jr. and Armabella Reyes, will wed Richard Limjan, son of the late Benedicto and Rosita Limjan, on May 29 at The Community Manila Protestant Church. Trisha Fernandez designed the bride's gown using ivory Mikado silk. The bodice is embellished with Chantilly lace and has a multi-layered skirt of illusion tulle. A hand-crafted bouquet of cabbage roses and lisianthus featured as the bride completes the ensemble. The female entourage will wear draped chiffon dresses in pastelic blue and dove grey.

ARNALE 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Cornelio and **Lourdes Arnale** recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary at Sandoor Room, Ortigas Center. The couple has two sons, Clarence and Charles.

MAYLOSA-ADARNA

Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Jacobson of Iloilo City and Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Salazar of Davao City announce the wedding of their children Ann Jacobson and Manky Adarna on May 21 at Seawind Resort.

Hassle-free banking treat for moms

SM EXPRESS MOBILE PARTNERS WITH moms by enabling hassle-free banking transactions with just a (hand) click. Through their cell phones, moms can check their real-time deposit account balance, transfer funds, pay bills—including school children's tuition fees, reload a prepaid account or card and more—wherever they are, whenever it is convenient for them, even when they are on the move.

Full-time mom Rebecca shares: "SM Express Mobile allows me to multi-task and to maximize my time. I can transfer funds while banking through my cell phone. Now I don't have to go to the branch just to do simple yet important tasks. I have more time to spend with my family."

SM Express Mobile can be accessed through SIM services and the Internet, depending on one's preference and mobile phone capabilities. Although both share the similar core features, the Internet based SM Express Mobile facility has added transactions such as ordering checkbooks, requesting stop payments orders and more.

SM recently received the first Mobile Phone Banking Award from the Asian Banker Excellence in Retail Financial Services Awards 2010 at JW Marriott, Hongkong.

To know more about the SM Express Mobile, text EXPRESS to Globe subscribers, or 2158 for Smart subscribers. Visit www.bpiexpressonline.com/www.chinabankrd.com.ph, any SM branch, or call 891-7000.

Short but sweet surprises at BGC's My Art Moment

By Jaymee T. Gamil
Photos by Andrew Gobalan

SHORT-LIVED INTERACTIVE art installations surprised Bonifacio High Street visitors throughout Bonifacio Global City's (BGC) Passionfest, an annual celebration of creative interests such as music, food, sports, fashion and visual arts, held from April 17-May 9 this summer.

Magnets, denim and balloons adorned Bonifacio High Street (BHS) as an "epitome" of sorts to the "Sol's My Art Walk project, a walking tour of the 12 permanent public art works found around BGC.

As with the permanent works, the temporary installations were commissioned from emerged names in the local art world.

Inspired by guerrilla-type street art, Reg Yuson, whose works like the suspended boulder "Specific Gravity" and the floor-mounted shiners "Concern" define the BHS landscape, took the lead in dotting metal surfaces with brightly colored magnets.

The playful "vandalism" kicked off the Passionfest and delighted children and adults alike. Magnets colonized metal posts and even some of the permanent art installations such as the giant teddy bear-like silhouette "Timawa 885". Visitors were given free reign to play around with the magnets to relocate them, form shapes with them, add to them, or even, as what most kids did, take them home.

"I'm very happy that a lot of people interacted with the pieces. We wanted to encourage people to be part of the artistic project," Yuson said.

Innovative slabs

Esteemed artist Pablong Arueding kept up the innovative spirit. The evening of April 29 saw him bringing in seven concrete slabs from the debris of a construction site in BGC, scattering them near the BHS fountains, and painting vibrant abstract patterns on the flat surfaces.

It was a throwback to one of his iconic exhibits, "Pallet Map," inwhich he re-sighted the same technique with debris found in construction sites near his studio in Cubao, and erected torn flags, fragmented tarpaulins.

Transporting the base materials to BHS had been no easy feat. "It took seven men to carry the heaviest [slab]," Arueding recalled. The artist, however, was pleased with the public's reception, as he documented how people openly interacted with his work, in many ways that usually wouldn't be allowed in a gallery: people posing for silly photos with them; children playing around and on them.

Bonifacio High Street visitors play with the "guerrilla" magnets during Coenraad Velasco's giant teddy bear-like silhouette "Timawa 885." (There is No Such Thing as Endless (Int).)

Artist Reg Yuson raises the bar in interactive street art, scattering colorful magnets on Bonifacio High Street metal surfaces, including on art works such as his own "Hearsay."

Pablong Arueding rebuilds his celebrated exhibit "Pallet Map," a reference on fragmented territories, by painting vibrant patterns over debris found in construction sites in Bonifacio Global City.

Wonderful cloud formation

Fellow young artist Gary Pastrana concluded the Passionfest with his wistful cluster of hundreds of white balloons tied down at the courtyard in front of Building 2 on May 9. The finished product, entitled "Collective Wonder No. 001 (A Curious Cloud)," evoked a grounded cloud formation, which shifted around and changed shape with the wind.

The endeavor didn't come without challenges. The heat and humidity deflated and popped some of the balloons, and some of the helium ones drifted in the skies. But the vulnerability only served to point out its nature as temporary, interactive art, and Pastrana enjoyed pulling off "a public installation that was not expensive to execute, utilized simple materials, didn't need any special engineering and expertise, but still answered the scale, effect and purpose of a temporary public artwork."

"I liked how balloons are very familiar and almost all ways appeal to children," he added. True enough, as he and his friends set up the balloons at noon, passing kids would exclaim at the sight, their awe making the effort worthwhile.

"We wanted to surprise people with something fresh, something new. We wanted to deviate from our main notions of what art is; we wanted them to see art can take many different forms," Yuson said of the temporary installations.

Open gallery

If you missed these fleeting treats, however, there's no need to feel left behind. BGC, after all, is always an "open gallery" with its public art program, where 12 sculptures, monuments and installations are permanently incorporated in its spacious landscape, commissioned from the artist's who of the most art-world, and managed by the Bonifacio Art Foundation Inc.

My Art Walk simply made touring these works an organized experience. This summer, scale models were exhibited near the BHS concierge. Maps, pointing out the different starting tour stops and including descriptions of the works, were provided for those who wanted to explore the city to locate them. But you could always do it on your own, at your own convenient time.

BGC inculcates passion for the arts among the public by giving them the opportunity to engage in and expose themselves to high art in their everyday life. This generosity of enthusiasm for culture exemplifies the thrust of BGC's Passionfest, and cements its reputation as "The City with Soul." "Try to look at all the art work you can possibly see, may it be over the internet, in books and magazines, or in person," Pastrana suggested. "Keep looking." Arueding put it succinctly.

And there is always much to see, discover and immerse in at Bonifacio Global City, the "home of passionate minds."

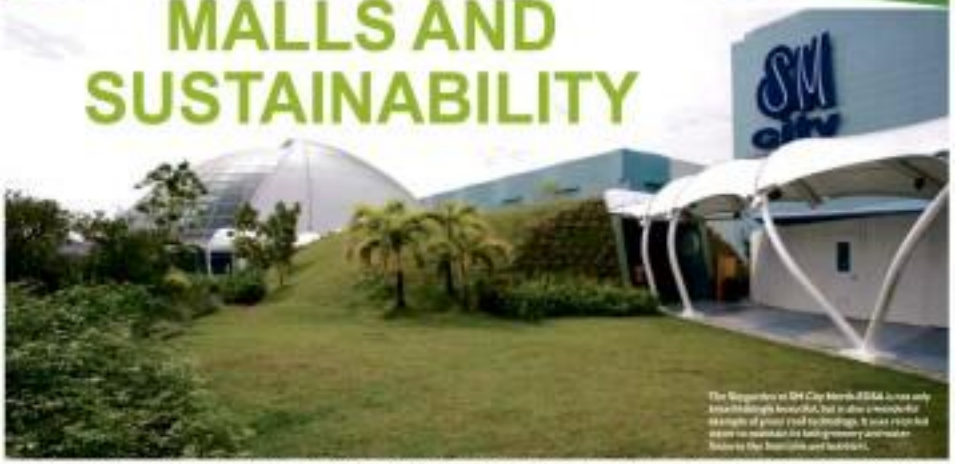
Visit www.bonifacioglobalcity.com.ph for a rundown on the public artworks at BGC.

Gary Pastrana evokes a grounded cloud formation using white balloons, with his work "Collective Wonder No. 001 (A Curious Cloud)."

Miniature replicas of the public artworks found in Bonifacio Global City, such as "Tree Trees" by Reynante Paz Constantino and "Hukbong Hai" by Leo Gerardo Lucenara, were exhibited near the Bonifacio High Street concierge.

Green Initiatives from the SM Supermalls

MALLS AND SUSTAINABILITY



The Skygarden at SM City North EDSA is not only breathtakingly beautiful, but is also a wonderful example of green roof technology. It uses recycled water to maintain its lush greenery and water fixtures like fountains and waterfalls.

In the past, the greening of malls has often been associated with landscaping. And while we all love beautifully designed gardens, we have come to realize that in order for a mall to be truly considered environmentally friendly, we have to go beyond landscaping and look into its sustainability efforts.

One of the biggest challenges of a mall is managing its consumption of power and energy, water and solid materials. SM Supermalls has a holistic, four point approach to sustainability: energy, air, water, and solid waste. Here are some ways in which SM Supermalls take the sustainability route.

Water Conservation

SM has upgraded its facilities to include sanitary treatment plants which saves 2.5 billion liters of water a year. By switching to waterless urinals in all the malls' bathrooms, SM saves an additional 210 liters of water every year. SM also incorporates its rainwater capture systems on a quarterly basis in compliance with the Philippine Clean Water Act.

Sewage treatment plants in SM Supermalls help in water conservation.

Recycled water is cooling tower

Waterless urinals

Energy Efficiency

A Focus Enterprise Building Management System uses smart electronic climate control to manage the fluctuating energy demands of malls throughout the day. Using this new system, SM has managed to save up to 50 kilowatt hours a year.

Lux Fine glass wallpanels

Hardoise glass wall panels

Mega skylights

Aircon control panel

Skylight, Sky bright

SM builds and renovates malls with green concepts like skylight walls that let in sunlight.

The Block sky light

Mega Atrium

Glass screen inside MOA

Air Quality Efficiency

SM Malls have improved quality air efficiency by replacing all its chillers using R11 to R123 and R 134 refrigerants in compliance with the Clean Air Act. It also prohibits smoking inside the mall, providing bicycle parking spaces to lessen air pollution, and creating al fresco dining spaces in most of the SM malls.

Bicycle parking

SMHE Al Fresco Dining at the Sky Garden

SM Megamall facade recreation of famous dining

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SAMSUNG

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Medusa: More than just a head of hair

By Iris Mendiola
Contributor

WATCHING "CLASH OF the Titans," I was reminded of another movie I had seen decades ago, in which Medusa also figured prominently. We were then living up a farm in Negros and had ventured into the city for the day. Since we rarely had the chance to go to the cinema, I begged my father to bring me. He pointed out that the only thing playing was a horror flick which, he was sure, would be too frightening. Vehemently, I insisted that I would be very brave. Needless to say, I spent most of the movie facing the back of my seat.

I have since been able to look up on the Internet that horror film of my childhood. It was entitled "Dragon," the generic name for the creature that formed the trio of which Medusa was part. Now I wonder what I had found so frightening. It was just a woman with too much makeup and a bad hair day of mythic proportions!

Admittedly, the mythological creature in "Clash of the Titans" was creepier. I cannot imagine finding the courage to take on an arbitrary who could slither around and turn you into a large paperweight by all eternity. Yet when given a glimpse of Medusa's face, I wasn't initially repulsed. With the high cheekbones, blushed almond eyes, as well as full lips, and if one could just ignore all that serpent-like hair and eyebrows, what's there not to like? In some sense, I can relate to the little boy in one of Woody Allen's films that confessed to a persistent fantasy to take the evil queen.

Archetypes abound in the juxtaposition of the bourgeoisie's sultry looks with the fear-inducing image of Princess Andromeda. At close-up, the princess' face is the epitome of beauty, with her flawless skin, delicate features and luscious lips. Her hair, however, is a writhing mass of vipers. One sees that in the various versions that have come out through the years. Medusa and Snow are portrayed as childhood friends and even as long-lost twins.

Sobrier messages

Medusa's mythical wounds are nothing with subtler meanings. For centuries, images ranging from a bitter Magdalen wiping her feet with her long tresses to a fiercely fearful showing of her blow-dried blondness, demonstrate just how hair has always been a universal fetish. This is why it must be controlled—braided, powdered, veiled, shaved. So primordial are our associations with hair that it can even play a role in politics. Think of the painstaking makeup of tactfully, stoutage and acceptance that former President Aquino demonstrated to the nation with her refusal to hide her shocking white streak in the last months of her illness? Think, too, of all the candidates who are trying to project to the electorate illusions of eternal youth by using decades-old pictures taken when they still sported thick pompadours.

CARAVAGGIO'S Medusa

The combination of snakes and a woman's locks is quite explosive. It conjures all manner of contradictory emotions, from fear to lust. It is both potent and perilous. Hair, the element which, when flowing in wild lengths, was considered to arouse, had suddenly turned murderous. Since snakes are phallic symbols as well, this is tantamount to a double whammy! An uncontrollable female with homosexuality is hinted at by the revelation that what had once been the object of men's desire has now taken on a masculine form. Simultaneously, what was desired is also feared as a terrible weapon that could bite, poison and petrify. The wounds have turned on the gladiators. With such a disquieting configuration representing a mystical being, there can be only one appropriate reaction: decapitation!

Yet, even death does not grant the poor creature peace. Upon separation from the rest of the body, her head is thrown into a sack and banished about as full monsters, subkingdoms, revenge affronts. Even if the bearer never gets to devour Andromeda, another woman must still be sacrificed to restore the established order.

Medusa

We realize not how awful things are unless we delve deeper into Medusa's story. Medusa is actually numb to the filth that Perseus' hapless enemy was once quite beautiful. Unfortunately, her beauty could tempt even the gods. Fortuitous was seen in her pursuit. It was in the temple of his archrival, Athena, that he finally managed to have his way with her quarry. Strangely, Athena's wrath over this desecration of her chaste till are no less heavy adversary but on the innocent maiden who, it seems, had only been forced to accept the will of her divine suitor. Apparently, it is the fate of mortals to endure the anger of the heavens, no matter how arbitrary. Athena promptly feasted Medusa into the infamous monster of lore.

This theme of arbitrariness was also central to a Classical art exhibit I had seen in a museum in Frankfurt. It showed that the gods of Greece and Rome were far from perfect beings whom every movie was immersed, just and wise. They were impulsive, lecherous, jealous, possessive, dishonest and sexist. In other words, they were very human, but on a grander scale.

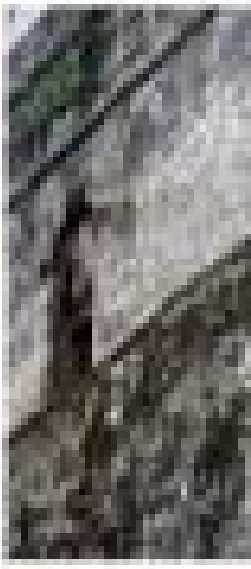
I would learn from the show that there was even more to the epic of our hidden fear. The rest of the tale was just as instructive about the ambivalence and superstition with which the gods reigned. It came out that Perseus' beheaded foe was bitterly conceived by her sisters, the other two Gorgons. The hierarchy of the deities' grief was such that they let loose a powerful, haunting wail heard all the way to Mount Olympus. Somehow, this detail made the narrative suddenly more arresting. It drew home the point that even a monster can be mourned.

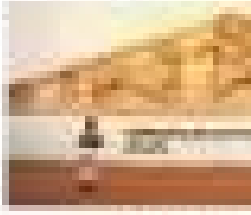
Lulled by the Gorgons' mournful song, Athena herself became entranced. It was in trying to replicate the plaintive sound that the wise goddess invented the reed pipe. The firmament of Athena

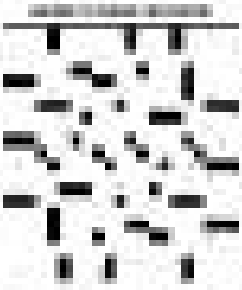
PHOTOS IN

29 years ago —I was there when Pope John Paul II was shot

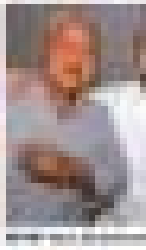
Medusa: M

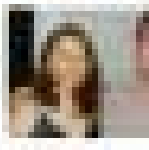




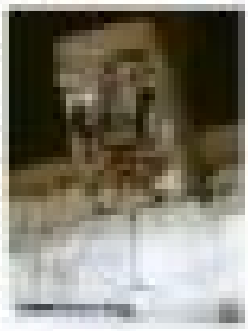


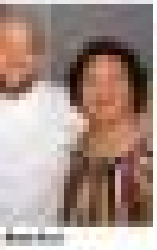
Three generations rocked on Katrina's 50th birthday

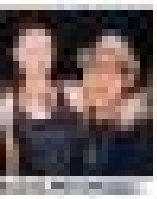




More than just a head of hair







Sam Milby loves his new mobile wonder

SAM MILBY GETS HELP LIVING and managing his busy life from Samsung Galaxy, a mobile phone that offers state-of-the-art touch screen technology, a user-friendly, three-page expandable home screen main menu, and a wide range of social networking features and applications.

The Samsung Galaxy gives the news-singer the convenience of connecting with anyone in the world, especially his relatives in the US. It's got instant Internet access, allowing him to send and receive e-mail, or post updates/statuses/updates on Facebook, Twitter and other popular social networking sites.

He can also catch his latest single playing on the phone's FM radio, listen for up to 25 hours in his office MP3 downloaded on an 8-GB microSD, or take videos and photos using the phone's built-in video camera and 3.0-MP still camera.

Scarlett Johansson launches Spanish fashion house's new collection

SCARLETT JOHANSSON appears in the trend-forward advertising campaign, photographed by Mario Sorrenti, to launch its new collection.

Entitled "Summer Light," the campaign marks the fourth time the Hollywood actress has appeared as image model for the Spanish fashion house.

The Red&Blue line of the new collection returns to geometric with a light stylish touch to blue and white tones. White combines with different tones of blue to create light cotton tubes, frontline and jeans. The key garments are dresses and waist-high skirts featuring floral prints, embroidery, frills and lace details.

Jean content prevails new colours such as 4-cut skirts, tech denim and kaftan. Graphic contrasts are highlighted in prints, embroidery and jewels in mixed fabrics.

Romantic Mood has floral motifs and a handmade look, using rich tones and natural textures, while Small Stone offers a combination of patches and patchwork motifs, giving movement to the Dual, three-in-one pieces.

Mango is Spain's second largest exporter of women's fashion.

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IN THIS ISSUE
■ A genteel champion against a gruesome trade /C1

Sunday LIFESTYLE

What I wore on Election Day—yellow terno with orange train and green appliqués

FILLED WITH HEROIC HUBRIS, I turned up at my precinct on voting day dressed in a yellow terno, with an orange train, highlighted with green appliqués—as politically correct an election-day outfit as possible. I was horrified, though, because my name was no longer on the list!

It seems I had missed voting in the last election and so my name was cleansed. Now I know what a flying voter feels like! After all the excitement of dressing up for the vote, it was a bummer not to have my say with the PCOS machines push through. Nevertheless, I congratulated all the watchers and volunteers at the Valenzuela Village precinct, as the polling there seemed so peaceful and organized.

The whole process was so fast that I had time to play golf afterward—not in my terno but to my new, rumbi Adidas golf shoes designed by Stella McCartney. Wearing a terno is the best to see like being on herring, which launches. The terno basically smores me as well! I could feel sweat dripping down my arms. How did Madame look so regal in her terno all those years?

I brought my terno at an exclusive, artsy bar called Boba Bar—A Boho Festival and Night Market. Organized by good friends Ael Santos and Ann de Leon, the bohemian celebration hosted on 8th Avenue at The Fort included street performers entertaining shoppers.

This art advocacy project aimed to promote emerging performing and visual artists, merchants and entertainers. The best of Filipino indie films were also shown in an inflatable theater.

Disappointed upon a vendor selling artists' salary salary, all for the benefit of Gawad Kalinga. I found out that the items were donated by super charitable and soon-to-be First Lady Kris Aquino. With such a provenance, I chose the yellow terno and had it adjusted and embellished by my fave designer Raja Laurel.

'Sona Pinay' awarding

I used the hand-me-down terno at the Awarding Night of "Sona Pinay," Unilever Foodsolutions' search for our favorite local dish. Tea staff favor Pinoy dishes had been shortlisted by the UFS Culinary Team: kare-kare, adobo, sinigang na hipon, crispy pata, pinakbet, bulalo and sisig.

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

FREE SEMINAR
"The Science of Enlightenment"
Sunday, the 23rd of May, Today's Date
Attending a Gift of Empathy, Wisdom and Compassion
May 22 (Sat) 2:00pm – 5:00pm, Elyu Ria, Diplomat Hotel, F. Ramos St. Cebu City
May 22 (Sat) 1:00pm – 4:00pm, 2nd flr. Colegio de los Baños, Lopez Ave., Los Baños, Laguna
May 23 (Sun) 2:00pm – 5:00pm, Asian Social Institute, 1518 Escolta St., cor. Leon Guinto St., Malate Manila (near PGH and Phil. Independent Church)
May 23 (Sun) 4:00pm – 7:00pm, 2nd flr. PIA Bldg., Angeles City Library, Pampanga
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SEA PRINCESS posing with "Sooo Pinoy" jeepney at the Ambassador Foundations event

ULTIMATE "Sooo Pinoy" Girls judge and beauty Chair Maria Prieto with husband Alex

TRIATHLETE couple Marlon and Daniel Varlos

BOHO Festival shoppers Joel Santos and Tina Tan and daughter Marina

UNILEVER boss Chef Paolo Sa

What I wore on Election Day. . .

From page G1

BOHO Art Festival organizers Lenny Santos, Joe de Leon, Glo Santos, Joel Santos and Abbygayle de Leon

ELECTION volunteers at Urdaneta Village with Barangay Captain Ely Angala

POLL-WATCHING sisters Mayen Carmona and Marissa Chan

RAYMOND Gabriel and Ingrid Holmes

FOLDED and Hong's Ronald Pinedo, Randy Dela and Hiner Calayag

STYLISH couple Junior and Mams Antonio

THAI Airways guests Cheryl Tu, Lee Rodrera, Jen Lucas, David and Mia Kaufman, Frank Briones

BEST Adobo winner Privato Republik Restaurant in Davao City

FROZEN II guests Dennis Tantoco, Joanna Goulbourn, Aryanna Epperson, seasoned photographer Tess Epperson, Jenni Epperson, Columbia Tantoco, BDO's VP for Commercial Affairs Patrick Tan, Frances Lim

HP Inks Tatoo As Many Prints launch with condo unit designer Sue Princesa and HP Inks' Glo Dalisi and HP Marketing Communications manager Francis Chua

ADIDAS golf shoes by Stella McCartney

HP Inks promo

It was fantastic to be in Davao surrounded by HP Inks users. HP Inks has also asked me to do the invite design for the condo units, incorporating graphics to be printed by HP printers. For more info on the promo, just buy HP Ink for your printer and register the promo code at www.hp.com/ph/ph.

Glo Dalisi, one of HP's creative managers, said we love designs. HP Inks have much higher yields than others. Thus, users get twice as much ink and the original items cost us no out-of-pocket. All this info, while I was preaching away at Pinatar Republik and enjoying breakfast courtesy of Marriott Davao.

HP Printers also sponsored the recent photography exhibit, Frozen II, images by Tess Epperson. Chloe Epperson presented the show, which featured Tess's recent photographs of ice in Mongolia. Tess, of course, is not only a renowned photographer but also the husband of business fashion editor Jenni Epperson.

Attended by Tess's supporters and a group of top young art collectors, the exhibit really showed off Tess's meticulous art. This same concept recently won accolades in a New York exhibit entitled, "12 Inches" at the Tyler Stallings Gallery.

Tess regaled us with stories of his adventurous shooting in the frozen lakes of Genghis Khan's country, and the photographs came alive with his memories. To order prints, e-mail tessepperson@gmail.com. Other sponsors were Ralph's Wines and Spirits and the Makati Shangri-la Hotel.

Thai Airways' 50th b-day

Speaking of Ralph, he and Philippine Wine Merchants have been ubiquitous lately. He also provided the wines at the 50th Anniversary of Thai Airways International at Dusit Thani Hotel poolside. More than 300 guests attended the big celebration, enjoying the fairy lights, lantern combos and smiles in a Thai village setting.

Various Thai canapés and appetizers, prepared by chef Pat of Benjarong, were passed around as guests were greeted with a traditional Thai 'Rum' background. Stamset Beth Co provided Hangover Taxis ice cream for all the guests.

Nirat Chantawarichard, GM of Thai Airways in the Philippines, mentioned in his welcome speech that one of the secrets of reaching this milestone, which sets Thai Airways from other airlines, is the "Thai Touch," and he explained that the number of Thai representatives the "Thai-ness" onboard each and every flight.

It was indeed a "smooth as silk" party as guests were each given crystals engraved with the airline's 50th Anniversary logo. Even better, 50 lucky guests won lucky draw prizes, courtesy of Dusit Thani Hotel, The Fairmont Port, and the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

The highlight of the night was a Thai cultural show by the 25 performers from Silom spa cultural dance group, specially flown in from Chiang Mai. The ladies' lovely gowns and hand poses were amazing, and it made me wonder whether I should fly Thai to Bangkok and visit their headwater always.

If I can find a yellow tutu in my size, okay here. I'm sure I can get a Thai gown in a snap-ay okay there.

E-mail the author at sunprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

CHLOE Epperson regional manager Lucidi Rufo

PENALOZ Chosen, Celia Arandain, Chabere Sachez, Hale Dumas, Pulaprasat Thanatsorang, Mariagatin Pandin Manuela

THAI Airways Anniversary event host Thai Yap with Dhiva Lee, Nirat Chantawarichard, Soi Princes

TIG SALES team Chris, Caroline, James, Mike L, Rochelle, Clarence, Celia, Gary, Jenni, Mole, Jo-Ann

THAI Airways GM Nirat Chantawarichard with Benjarong Dance Troupe

French envoy celebrates birthday with Cebuano friends in style

CEBU
CEBU

Jaime Piccarell

A river cruise in Bohol was highlighted by a sumptuous lunch in the midst of the jungle

FRENCH AMBASSADOR THIERRY DORIA de Maestra came to Cebu on a private visit to celebrate his birthday over weekend, as he did last year. He stayed at Shangri-la Mactan Resort and Spa along with well-wishers who came from Pasay. An invitee Alanna Borja de Mactan said Dorita Lichtenstein flew in.

There was a cocktail reception and exhibition soon prepared by Francois Jeanroy owned in the Visayas. Michel Escallier with the said AL Mont Francoise in Cebu director Jean Thevenin and his wife Danielle.

One celebration was at Apaca, also located in Mactan and not to be Texas like Shangri-la is home of glamorous Michel by Margarita Escallier came to wish the Ambassador a happy birthday, and there were some very exotic gifts indeed. Like the unique inside with python skin by Jean Marc Pasquet.

There was a day trip to Bohol on a short intimate. The visitors toured and were duly impressed by the old Loboc church. Emanuel Jos is interestingly envisioned children's choir, a show creator was highlighted by a complement much in the midst of the jungle. Just like in a Tarzan film.

In Cebu itself, there were other hustle encounters, like a visit to the dentist under Michael but moved for himself in the municipality of Consuar in another in Cebu's east coast. There is an orchid farm, with countless species, and also talents of organic vegetables.

There's also a zoo with a host of wild animals. The zoo has a called Cuatro, what else? It was Augustin Escallier's idea to name the tigers after famous designers. One is called Max, another Monique, after the daughter of the house who's on top of the fashion world.

Exquisite buffet

Ambassador Borja de Maestra's birthday culmination was a few at the Escallier home on a hill in the Mactan Lake Estate Park. There was a full moon above, while Michel said he had specially ordered, along with the pyrotechnics that all rain should soon succeed.

And did Nicolo, as Pino restaurant's manager, was most busy, having laid the exquisite buffet with specialties and cooked an excellent lunch for play and all music. Cakes, dance bands offered as fine forms were flowed all night. Shake goes for the tee-cold Boss Pedigree in different flutes.

There was more from where it came from, and so, for those who cared, there was a visit to the Dutch-stocked wine cellar in the south.

Speaking of Dalliance, in Cebu it is at the second level of the QC Pavilion. Rosario Arenas' fan impose schedule of summer classes are based for post-exam April and May. Cooking lessons in French cuisine have also been offered, with a genuine French chef imparting secrets on craft in practical knowledge.

There are courses in forms at all de Cabanos the second half of 2016. In June, it will celebrate Fete de la Musique and hold a festival of French films. One impressive venue is on June 12 at the Atrium of Northwing in SM City Cebu...the two areas "Spectacle du Garçon De Loup pour Boulette." The accident will give a workshop for children the same days.

There is also a membership drive for all de Cebu, with a flurry of letters signed by Michel and sent to a long list of prominent people, many of whom have favorably responded.

Coming up in July is an exhibit titled "The French is Plural," by Rhea Drew. July is also important as the National Day of France is on the 14th, to commemorate the fall of Bastille prison. The celebration in Cebu will be on a lesser date.

Two exhibits have been lined up for September. All de Cebu has a Quiz Club which every second Friday of the month shows French films at the premises. Yesterday they may show the French film recently being shot in Cebu called "De beaux d'dernières," which is totally unscheduled. The comedy by Dominique Pennyan stars noted actors Pelesh Jobson and Richard Berry.

Soup's birthday

Soup Alonzo breezed into town to spend her birthday with her mother Mercedes Alonzo in their ancestral home near the Capitol Building. She had some friends Cajetan arbors the visited daughter Gianny Bichara Kjellsdotter, the honorary consul of the Philippines in Stockholm.

Gingee is married to prominent Greek businessman Alexis Karabelias, who wanted Soup to be present at the baptism of their first child, a pretty little girl christened Alexis Marie Isabelle. Godparents were close friends Marie and Lennie Mascarenhas, who showed from around the port of Limassol where their yacht is berthed.

"We did not sail, it was too cold," Soup told close friends Gwen Pelle, Changgay Ultramar, Rita Pacline and Joy Bavin the night they took her out to dinner out-right resident at El Cenaculo de Cenina Espesial. There, they met Fr Edu Villasco with whom Soup shared happy memories about life in California.

MS. PUERTO Princess 2015 Shoshi Blanca Bagaporo

Bagaporo named Ms Puerto Princesa

SHIELL SHERYLE BAGAPORO, representing Barangay Bagong Pag-asa, won the Ms Puerto Princesa 2015 title in a beauty pageant that highlighted the 130th founding anniversary of Puerto Princesa City and the 65th Foundation Festival. The glittering pageant was held in the 12,000-person-capacity City Coliseum in Barangay San Pedro.

Bagaporo, a nursing graduate, impressed the board of judges chaired by one of Philippines top couture designers Eddie Builders, in the private interview portion of the province's beauty pageant in the province. Bagaporo explained the importance of education in producing worthy individuals that is essential in nation building.

Shoni Isabel Goco was declared 1st runner-up, here in talent and darling of the press. Jessa Fee Montecillo of Barangay Binunhan was 2nd runner-up. The representative of Barangay San Pedro, Kristine Bermudez, was named 3rd runner-up and Jennifer Cupang was declared 4th runner-up.

The Board of Judges included Betty Go-Belmonte of Cebu Pacific Air, John Paller Mercado, Gerry Kiat, LCUP Vice Chancellor Atty. Jesse Andres, Willy Ahmad, Dr. Antonio Calvario, Ambassador Dennis C.T. Lee of Taiwan and couturier Eddie Builders.

After the casual wear competition presided by Sherri Jessa, and swimsuit competition, the 20 candidates paraded the streets as Eddie Builders' gowns inspired by colors of our leading provincialities (orange, yellow, green and gold).

Ms Good Pre-Teens and Ralph Palacio emceed the show directed by Earl Gutierrez. Ms-7 statistics winner Alice Sherwin and actor Paolo Bernal provided songs for the candidates. Overall chair, city first lady Ellen Alameda Hagedorn, was very happy for the success of the coronation. Ellen and her elder maid as the social girl and special events office headed by Connie Alcan executed effort for this annual event.

City Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn also boasted of his January Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park as the Underground River in Sitio Sabang, Barangay Cabayugan. The country's entry to the New 7 Wonders of Nature vied with rivals.

Summer sunshine

ELLE Kids add cheer to even the dreariest summer drizzle with its new range of sweet and playful footwear

As you'd expect from the premier purveyor of fashion in Europe, under the license of ELLE Magazine, there is a wholesome love about ELLE Kids, with its super cute summer footwear. Let your little ones strut in style and revel in summer colors with ELLE Kids' wide range of footwear collection, be it from classic to contemporary.

Sugar babies

Add playful graphic accents like patches of flowers or funky plaids to comfy sneaks, perfect for carefree walloping.

"ABBIE" Blue and white rubber shoes with playful graphic design

"SADIE" Casual sneakers

Beyond the blue

Whip up cool looks and just take-anywhere-ables with blue-hued footwear, inspired from the colors of the sea and the sky.

"KARLA" White and blue slip-on rubber shoes with criss-cross velcro

"JOANNE" Red patent open-toe strappy sandals with floral detail

Tutti fruity

Get a boost from the red patent sandals that's bright as the summer sun.

"KELLAN" White and blue casual rubber shoes with criss-cross velcro

Easy, breezy

Have fun under the sun and delight in all things comfortable with casual rubber shoes that's made for playtime and walking.

Kids' corner

- ELLE Kids is for ages 4 to 12 years old.
- ELLE Fashion is a lifestyle brand with a strong Parisian heritage, featuring cutting-edge designs. ELLE brings the latest trend-fused collections in today's men, women, and children. ELLE's spring and summer collection for children are available at selected SM Department Stores nationwide.

Sky's the limit

Bring special peeps back to easy, casual, all-American footwear basics with red and blue color pop.

"SHELLE" Red and white flats with graphic prints

"KAELEN" Blue criss-crossed sneakers

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ernesto G. Velarde

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Lil Wayne accused of breaking jail music rules

NEW YORK—RAPPER LIL WAYNE'S EFFORTS TO KEEP UP THAT hot-tattooed hot-lover persona him in trouble in jail, an official said Thursday. The Grammy Award-winning rapper faces potential disciplinary after jail officers found a cheaper recording player in his cell. Lil Wayne is serving a yearlong sentence after pleading guilty to a gun charge. AP

'Kris out of the limelight? That's like fish out of water'

Proponents of a fun viral campaign shouldn't bring out the bubbly just yet

By Rayvel San Diego Jr.

THERE WERE SUGGESTIONS OF flashmobs, free Wiganderiano and even Rejuvinglobal, the Iceland volcano, as fun ultimate destination.

Times Street, ABS-CBN studios and SM Mall of Asia were proposed as possible party venues.

But members of "Kim Aquino's Geographic," one of the fastest growing groups in Facebook, shouldn't bring out the champagne bottles just yet.

Even as the FB group has more than doubled in membership in 24 hours (from 40,000 on Wednesday to 80,000 on Thursday) and attracted some sponsored and well-known celebrities to its side, it would take more than one million people to persuade Aquino to keep her word.

(The brainchild's creator has stated that it was "created purely out of fun. I have nothing against Kris Aquino...")

In a public conversation made in response to a counterstory from Manila, Aquino promised to reignite "Kris-tiliser show in a TFC (The Filipino Channel), ABS-CBN's newsreel broadcast service," if her brother Noynoy wins as Philippine President.

But wanted to spare her brother from their bickfights, that's why

In televised reports, Kris talked her sisters "Tahan Imoto."

Boy Abunda, Aquino's friend, co-host and one-time manager, told Inquirer Entertainment that she will appear in today's episode of "The Buzz" on the network's sibling of "ABS."

Filmmaker and media critic Jose Javier Reyes put the headaches in perspective. "Miss Kim's promise I said accidentally, hardly or only for effect. But hope it should be viewed in the same light as her brother Noynoy's statement that he would quit smoking should he win the presidency."

Reyes added: "Kris Aquino exiting stage from the limelight is like fish living out of water."

Abunda said that he doesn't think his friend would relish anything less.

He said the TV host pursued shows his whole her mother Corazon Aquino was President from 1986 to 1992.

Comics Joe Santos and Eddie Nepomuceno, who frequently impersonate Aquino in their comedy shows, love their new take-out role (which

Santos noted that since Mr would be the instigating culprit Aquino. "Make the impression of stand-up comics would be affected... we'd lost a colorful, quotable character."

Nepomuceno agreed: "No just don't dig my career, I hope it wouldn't end like were."

PREVIEW

Lotlot Carlson and Joey Reyes give a preview of "Forever Broadway 2," a benefit season for victims of the Maguindanao massacre, on tomorrow at the Aurora Coliseum, Iloilo on page 64.

JUMPER Dy and Cisco Lerma

Covering Cannes not just about glamour

By Marinel R. Cruz

IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT STARS one.

Rayne who will be working behind the scenes at the 2010 Cannes International Film Festival knew that, said ABS-CBN talents Gretz Lhuillier and Allison Dy—the only Filipinos and talent scouts joining accomplished icon assembled by Grand Prince International (CPI) to cover the prestigious event.

"We will be competing with some 10,000 journalists in Cannes. We have to be prepared," Gretz told Inquirer Entertainment days before she and Allison left for France on May 9.

Gretz, a former Bea roadside reporter and MTV VJ, is currently a reporter in the show Mr. news program "ASAP."

CONTINUED ON

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ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS NOW ACCEPTED IN ALL SM CINEMA BRANCHES

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TV as electronic *yaya* is a no-no

PARENTS WHO USE THE TV set as a handy babysitter for their little children, by unanimous verdict of child psychologists, are doing not just one but many disservices — particularly unfortunate in an era when parents are increasingly strapped for time.

Television is supposed to be a "for general patronage" medium where shows are OK for viewers of all ages in safely doses. But everybody knows that this just isn't so. A mother may choose only child-safe, sexy dances ostensibly unveiling and grinning at fight scene is damaged—and damaging—as far as "safe" viewing by very young children is concerned.

Most psychological healthcare are out there in TV-land for young viewers: all those loud and lurid commercials particularly luring viewers to buy buy, buy; TV "personalities" cracking salacious jokes with overtones, mostly sexist, color-coded politicians murdering names to write, note, write; "News" show hosts engaging in slapstick, colorful insults and painful physical "comedy," etc.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Closely children should be protected from such graphic and even vile viewing fare.

So, unsupervised viewing for very young kids is an issue. So much for TV as the family's unpaid electronic nanny.

It may be economical and convenient, but it's potentially like exposing kids to an unlimited supply of toxic substances. Parents would never do that, would they?

Even viewing supervised by a teen while children's parents are out could be a problem, since the kids would be watching what the teen enjoys...which could be that dazzling investment show with the gyrating dancers and insensitive "humor." So, the supposed role of baby-sitter.

For very young "home alone" or "home with nana" kids, unsupervised viewing is all.

Is this rule too severe? Some TV people don't think so. Aware of TV's potentially negative effects on very young sensibilities, they admit that. But they themselves don't allow any viewing for their kids without their parental presence and guidance, until their children are at least 4 years old.

This is not to minimize in any way the TV medium, which is capable of doing great good. It's a simple reminder that TV can also disturb, confuse and corrupt vulnerable young sensibilities, so protection and parental guidance are key.

Deaf student wins Best New Actor award

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

SO ONE WHO KNOWS HER, joined from Bone himself.

Bonnible "Bone" Mallari, the Deaf actor in the Cinemalaya entry "Diary Jimi Rita," scored an "unexpected victory" at the Film Artworks, handed out by the Philippine Movie Press Club (PMPC).

Mallari won Best New Movie Actor, beating ABS-CBN's star newbie Jericho Rosales for "Tanging Ina." Other wins nominated for "Pinoy Ko Sasabihin"?).

"Diary" director Mike Sandejas recommended the PMPC for choosing "a Deaf boy with no real Actor prospects in the industry over an upcoming popular actor." They simply believed that he deserved it. It was a leap of faith."

'Shocking' triumph

In an e-mail interview, Mallari told Inquirer Entertainment that he found his triumph "shocking."

He admitted that he felt "nervous" accepting the trophy on stage.

"My first reaction was: 'Whoa! I can't believe it. It's unbelievable.' Thank God! My hard work paid off.

He remembers the award "is always every year ... ever since I was young. It's always related to be on screen."

He hopes the award would lead to more projects, but he acknowledged it as an inspiration to do better.

It's sweet vindication for Bonnible Mallari

"MY WORK is to be a good example for the Deaf community," he said. "It makes me want to work harder. It proves that there is hope in spite of life's hardships."

He admitted that his plans to keep the trophy in "my room in the dormitory."

He had to put his thesis on hold to attend the film festivals, he said, but he's now finishing it.

Mallari is taking up Bachelor of Arts in Applied Deaf Studies, specializing in Multimedia Arts in De La Salle College of Saint Benilde, School of Deaf Education and Applied Studies.

He is now busy modifying his thesis — a music video that helps Deaf people appreciate popular music.

He plans to volunteer to Deaf community projects like workshops and work full-time after his graduation in October, he said.

Honored, too

He shares the honor with his director Sandejas and the rest of the "Diary" team — which also received Samuel Ingalla's (Bonnible de Asis and Mark Lucena's Musical Score (Francis "Bebe" Reyes) and Original Theme Song ("Sana Ako ay Hinahag" by Reyes and Nina Sandejas) trophies in the Digital section of the fest Sandejas.

And Sandejas of Mallari's victory: "Not only can Deaf people dream to be actors, they can dream about becoming award-winning actors, too. I told Bone that he has to pave up a lot more hoops, but he's now carrying the flag for the Deaf everywhere."

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MOVIEWORLD

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GALLERIA

1 IRON MAN 2	6 IRON MAN 2 (3D)
2 HERE COMES THE BRIDE	7 THE BOUNTY HUNTER
3 ROBIN HOOD	8 PA-LAPOT
4 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET	9 YOU, TO ME ARE EVERYTHING
5 IRON MAN 2	10 THE LAST SONG

MANILA

1 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET	1 IRON MAN 2
2 ROBIN HOOD	2 ROBIN HOOD
3 IRON MAN 2	3 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
4 THE LAST SONG	4 IRON MAN 2
5 IRON MAN 2	5 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
6 YOU, TO ME ARE EVERYTHING	6 THE LAST SONG
7 HERE COMES THE BRIDE	7 YOU, TO ME ARE EVERYTHING
	8 THE BOUNTY HUNTER

METRO EAST

ROXAS LICHES

1 IRON MAN 2	1 IRON MAN 2
2 HERE COMES THE BRIDE	2 THE LAST SONG
3 ROBIN HOOD	3 ROBIN HOOD
4 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET	4 HERE COMES THE BRIDE

POWUM ROBINSONS

STA. ROSA

1 ROBIN HOOD	1 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
2 IRON MAN 2	2 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING
3 YOU, TO ME ARE EVERYTHING	3 IRON MAN 2
4 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET	4 IRON MAN 2
5 HERE COMES THE BRIDE	5 ROBIN HOOD

LIPA

DASMARIÑAS

1 THE LAST SONG	1 THE LAST SONG
2 IRON MAN 2	2 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
3 ROBIN HOOD	3 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
4 HERE COMES THE BRIDE	4 YOU TO ME ARE EVERYTHING
5 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET	5 IRON MAN 2
	6 ROBIN HOOD

BACOOR

IMUS

1 YOU, TO ME ARE EVERYTHING	1 ROBIN HOOD
2 HERE COMES THE BRIDE	2 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
3 IRON MAN 2	3 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
4 ROBIN HOOD	4 IRON MAN 2
5 THE LAST SONG	
6 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET	

ANGELES

TAGBILARAN

1 DIARY OF A WIMPY KID	1 IRON MAN 2
2 HERE COMES THE BRIDE	2 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
3 IRON MAN 2	3 DIARY OF A WIMPY KID

SUMAGUETE

BACOLOD

1 IRON MAN 2	1 IRON MAN 2
2 HERE COMES THE BRIDE	2 IRON MAN 2
3 THE LOSERS	3 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
4 IRON MAN 2	4 A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET
5 IRON MAN 2	5 THE BACK-UP PLAN
6 THE BACK-UP PLAN	6 SHUTTER ISLAND

ILOILO

DENSAN

1 IRON MAN 2
2 SPLIT ON ISLAND
3 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
4 THE LOSERS

ILOCOS NORTE

1 THE BACK-UP PLAN
2 HERE COMES THE BRIDE
3 IRON MAN 2

Music as healing force

By Paolo Cornejo

MUSIC AS HEALING FORCE IS what Joey Ayala and Gabby Cardoso are offering to a group of people crying out for justice.

The two musicians spoke on Friday to the business about their participation in "Human Broadcast 3," a benefit concert for the families of 32 media workers slain in the infamous Maguindanao massacre, tomorrow at the Araneta Coliseum.

The broadcast station UNTV (which lost four staff members to the massacre) and the Bible Broadcasting Society International are sponsoring the show.

Also performing along with Ayala and Cardoso are Gary Granada, Noel Cabangon, Sulsa Barcelona, Sayang Barrios, Cookie Chua, Lloyd Umali, Gerald Santos and Sarah Geronimo.

"I think it's best to transform the pain [of losing loved ones to this violent manner] into a kind of medicine," said Ayala. "Not like when somebody is killed by a snake, the remedy is to inject the victim with the snake's venom."

What the singer-songwriter meant was, the grief that the slain journalists' family have yet to overcome—and which their children continued to express with uncontrolled sobbing at the press conference—could find comfort in the type of music to be played at the concert.

In other words, the songs will remind the audience of the agony of what happened in Maguindanao.

"We will bring it to light ... That's the only way," said Ayala.

"We need to do that," added Cardoso. "Hopefully, justice will be served in the victims."

Ayala and Cardoso gave a sample of what they plan to do by performing two Pinoy folk classics by them—the latter's former band.

Their duet version in "Bulan" had an eerie, haunting vibe. When Cardoso took the lead vocals in "Huling-Ng Ng-ibig," the mood was bittersweet.

Covering Cannes not just about glamour

From page 1-E

Allmer, who was a director of the reality show "Pinoy Big Brother," to note the chief story editor in the same show.

They underwent an intensive, week-long workshop at the Alliance Française of Manila. Yves Avril, an editor in chief in France Télévisions and a journalism professor in the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Grenoble, conducted the workshop.

"It wasn't easy," Grace said of the workshop.

Biggest challenge

The biggest challenge that the workshop posed, said Allmer, "was how to 'Filipinize' the Cannes film fest. What do we know about Cannes? What can we do to make Filipinos more interested in it?"

Via the past 20 years, CFI has acted as the French representative for media cooperation to Africa, the Mediterranean region, the Indian Ocean and Asia. It has identified countries with a strong cinema heritage and whose film directors and actors had walked the red carpet in Cannes. CFI took the initiative to invite TV networks from the aforementioned countries to the Manila.

In 2009, the Philippines was highly visible in Cannes with Raya Martin's "Independencia" in Un Certain Regard, Adolfo Alix's "Manila" in the Special Screenings, and Brillante Mendoza's "Kinatay" in the Official Competition, where he won as Best Director.

Via the chance to cover the Cannes film fest, Grace and Allmer competed with TV5 representatives Lourd de Veyra and Mariden Goja, as well as GMA7's Angelica Ty and JP Dee.

Grace and staff-team were asked to make three videos. The first one is 90 seconds profile of Manila. There was also a 3-minute video on a specific subject, and a 2-minute on a topic devoted to the Cannes fest.

RP IN CANNES 2009: "Manila's" Raya Martin, Pinky Pascual and Adolf Alix (above), and "Kinatay's" Brillante Mendoza (left).

The contestants lost, which made for a more interesting angle for their video, Grace said. Allmer got a shot of Grace's facial expression when she lost—and then Grace disappeared."

According to Grace, what Yvan appreciated was that "we were able to tell the story without accuracy issues."

Grace admitted feeling the pressure long before they left for France. "I had a bad stomach a few days back. I couldn't think of what caused it," she said.

She and Allmer shared their preparations for the present-but-unequal event.

"I talked with Joel [Mendiola] and got myself a nice 'black tux'," said Allmer.

"Guys are so vanity!" Grace blurted. "That was the first thing that popped in my head. 'Whatever stuff I pack in my suitcase, that's it. If I forgot something, I'm through. Good thing I have a friend, Brenda Villaganda, who made a few dresses for me. I also got a dress from Pacy Quintana."

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DINGDONG DANTES MARIAN RIVERA

Cartoon Network's superhero summer

"IRON Man: Armored Adventures"

By Oliver M. Palumbarit
Contributor

THE EPIC STRUGGLE between good and evil takes center stage in Cartoon Network's "Hero Up" summer programming, as shows centering on classic and new superheroes become part of its daily run. From comic book characters to original animated characters, the ongoing lineup on Toonami appeals to a wide range of viewers.

Batman, Spider-Man, Ben Tennyson and other champions make intense viewing fare for Filipino kids, according to Turner Entertainment Networks Asia's Branding and Communications Head Jacqueline Garcia Hartington.

"At Cartoon Network, content is king and we are constantly on the lookout for new programs to keep our lineup fresh and exciting," Hartington said. "For Hero Up, with our recent acquisition of Marvel titles and our existing line-up of adventure series, it really seems to showcase these great cartoon heroes. Our content reflects universally popular themes such as comedy, action and adventure, but more of all, fun—as we strive to animate kids' lives everywhere."

The shows don't necessarily appeal to male audiences only, Hartington added.

"While on the surface most of the cartoons appear to be predominantly appealing to boys, there are plenty of strong female characters that girls can identify with as well. We have Gwen Tennyson, Ben's superpowered and intelligent cousin.

"There is also Dexter Bloodsworth [The Secret Saturdays], Raven [Teen Titans] and Marlin from 'Teen Titans,' and Powerpuff Girls Z," she said. "Elderwood and the Elder will showcase Gwen Shadowcast, Regine and Emma Frost. Girls should be able to find cool role models in cartoons and not themselves as strong and powerful heroes as well."

Cartoon Network nominees to attract younger viewers in Asia and the Philippines by means of "relevant" programming, Hartington said.

"We speak the language of the playground and we bring fun that kids can laugh about in the same way they laugh with their friends. We never stop creating or delivering new content, and it's what keeps us relevant and interesting to our fans."

"Hero Up" includes weekday airings of "Ben 10" (8 a.m.), "The Secret Saturdays" (9 a.m.), "Spectacular Spider-Man" (9:30 a.m.) "Batman: The Brave and the Bold" (10 a.m.), "Ben 10: Alien Force" (10:30 a.m.), "Teen Titans" (11 a.m.), and "Powerpuff Girls Z" (11:30 a.m.). On weekends, Cartoon Network airs "League of Super Evil" (8:30 a.m.), "Wolverine and the X-Men," "Iron Man: Armored Adventures" and "Super Hero Squad" were among this month.

Cannes party

Glitz 'n' "Party Pilipinas" conquers the hearts of Stockton this Sunday as it broadcasts the inventive variety show from the Cannes Waterspaces Complex in Cannestown Sur, the country's aqua-sports capital.

Leading the three-hour celebration are Hosts Rasmius, Shirley Sorma, Joy R, Kiko, Jessie Gibbs, Jaya La Diva, Fernandinda Bart, Geoff Eigbar, Jake Ayes Sandoval, Dave Magadova, Seaborth, Gloria de Castro, and Kris Bernal.

Joining the party are children Isaia, Pablo Ido, JC Tiánco, Marvin Kelley, Jennylyn Mercado, Kristine Hakli, Bedwin Luna, Jeff Gutan, Michelle Madrigal, Blaisi Ramos, Maxine Hapeme, and Rich Asuncion.

Drama Actress woos female co-starts

From page H1

optimistic. "I wish that they'll be able to iron out their differences soon. After all, we're all happening."

Willie on TV5

Although Willie Revillame has yet to appear on ABS-CBN, he is scheduled to guest on two TV5 shows today: "WOW" and "Pinoyamot."

He will grace longtime ally Cristy Fermin's new pet-topped segment.

Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories to keep an eyeball: Bandera last week. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

Ai Ai de las Alas

• Sam Milby pridit magbabai a Maja Salvador (Mod cursors agaw

didit si ka'ng panahon.)

• Willie Revillame nanawa sa facebook, Twitter (Si Kris Aquino rin.)

• Willie Revillame to sa TV5? (Mon pan.)

• Nanay ni Hide Bautista na-hemiban na ni Ai Ai de las Alas (Ayaya!)

• Sandy Seeras may kumikuyog lotlobo chong (ayaw magpaapi eh...)

• Ryzza Mae Dizon at Cute Al-mond gagawa ng baby si Cassy (Cloud lush.)

• Mole, Jason mgal-ibis kwentuhan (Mangan naman sulalahin.)

• Coco Martin tape ng mga madugong-dilim sa lolabi (Maraming magsusubo na gabi.)

Good comedy cast thrills director

From page H8

John jokingly said he felt motivated when he did his sexy scenes.

Sweet (Lapuz' nickname) did great in this film. I'm not the type who gives compliments to my actors, but Dio saying this now—Sweet is brilliant in this movie. Imagine him becoming a BOB! (dirty-old man) and doing a love scene. Or might have had a tough time doing it, but he was able to pull it off.

What's the inspiration for the project?

I worked with Amanda "Bing" Lo for this film. I had hoped to come up with a unique but meaningful story for romantic-comedy. For this story, we limited down the things that people wish for to be happy: Youth and good health, for example, which John Shea doesn't have. Another is to have a second chance at love, which Percy hopes to have. John's character Dallas wishes for love and sexy-ness, things he gets after being wapped inside Stephanie's body. Theodore's character, Wesley, who wants to a sexy, outdoor, fit sexidik. All of them seem to have gotten their wishes after that fateful soul switch except for Stephanie, who got trapped in Percy's body.

People compare this to the Hollywood film "Freaky Friday."

I didn't want for the movie to have the same concept. I'm inspired by a lot of the films I've watched in the past. I also don't see anything wrong with that. Having a concept similar to the film by Mark Waters, released in 2003, as long as we make it as Pinoy as we can get.

Which genre do you find most challenging and most enjoyable to do?

I really enjoy doing comedy. The script for [Dio Chio: Bobo Ehto] "Caregiver" was the hardest for me as an actor. I got challenged by dramatic work.

Describe the five actors you worked with in "Here Comes the Bride."

Tuesday's energy always connects just at 5 a.m. Bijing may seem yes, cubmil here, but as soon as it gets dark, she talks non-stop like she's performing in a comedy bar. John is a good collaborator.

Eugene is my best server. I know Angelica is busy with her TV shows, but when our careers seem stalling, she gives me more than I expect from her.

There's a difficult scene that Dio Justine willingly did for this movie, and there's only one word to describe it: Wowness.

What were the difficulties you encountered while filming?

The weather had been unpredictable. If it weren't too cloudy, it was raining. Also, with the several busy schedules, it was hard to put them all together in one set. I always demand from them to make sure for the film, no "wag pasaway."

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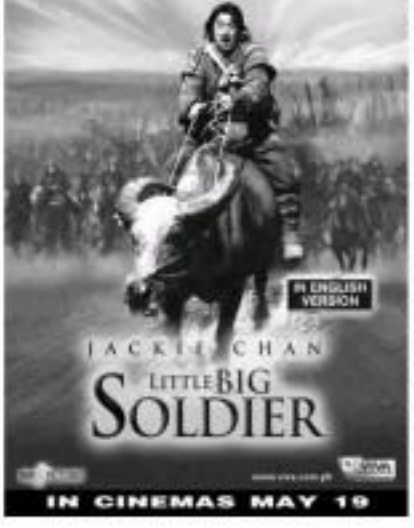

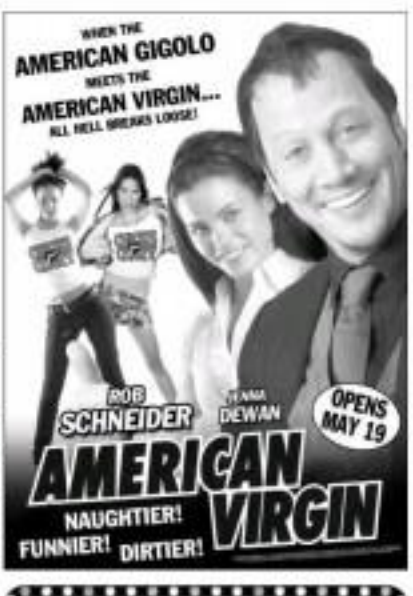

Jake Gyllenhaal takes humorous approach to his life, career

LOS ANGELES—"I LOVE MY work and care about it," Jake Gyllenhaal said in the recent interview. "But I'm beginning to have a great sense of humor about it because I just don't feel like there's any need to take it all that seriously."

Hell of a declaration, Jake proceeded to give mostly tongue-in-cheek answers to questions. The actor's acting mood also mentioned here the movie he was promoting, "Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time." After all, when you're talking about a movie that was adapted from a video game, you can't be all that serious.

But the film, directed by Mike Newell ("Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire") and produced by Jerry Bruckheimer, will probably make tons of money.

Jake said he made "Prince of Persia," which co-stars Gemma Arterton, Ben Kingsley and Alfred Molina, to moviegoers will "have a good time...This movie awakened that kid in me again. I made it for families. My aunt called me the other day and she was like, 'Hey, this is a movie that you could take your grandmother and mother to.'"

For the rest of the interview, Jake, who's always had a great sense of humor, was like the Prince of Comedy. Take his answer to how he got the muscled physique for the action-adventure: "It was a really long, arduous process," he said. "It was torture, torture, it was so hard to get people to entertain. There's nothing hard-ey. First, I grew the hair which was, again, really hard. It cried my patience. It's painful to grow out your hair. It was really about two simple things: Shampooing and then conditioning. So I'm over to one kind. You start with the shampoo which really weathers out the hair a lot. If you rub vigorously, then the things are worked out with conditioning."

He continued: "It lot more bathing involved, actually. Three to four hours in the shower of vigorously rubbing all over defines the abs and pectoral muscles. Essentially, you just become the Prince of Persia. So this, drinking lots and lots of water, keeping yourself hydrated while you're bathing and training to get the Prince of Persia physique."

We joked the exercise-over shampoo and conditioner bottle since the interview. He started using separate shampoos and conditioners "asides and set on. And that we were getting buff. Thank you, Jake.

And how did Jake learn the British accent he uses in the movie? Jake gladly shared his secret: "I'm not really about two simple things: Shampooing and then conditioning. So I'm over to one kind. You start with the shampoo which really weathers out the hair a lot. If you rub vigorously, then the things are worked out with conditioning."

GYLLENHAAL as the Prince of Persia

Movies in the sand

A question about how Jake has appeared in several movies set in the sand reminded him of the childhood sandbox. "Even the very last movie I did, I was digging a hole for about three months with a shovel each because I knew how much actually I would get. I had been watching 'Bridget Jones's Diary' over and over again. And by the way, Bridget Jones was a main influence in my learning process. I was going after that physique. My accent was really a combination of Gwyneth Paltrow in 'Sliding Doors' and Renee Zellweger in 'Bridget Jones's Diary' Gwyneth in 'Sliding' ...followed the bus, too."

Horrible accent

He continued: "I'd be talking to (cast mates) Toby Kebbell, Richard Coyle and Gemma Arterton in their horrible accents. There were a lot of 'Bob the goat' I asked them to tell me when something didn't sound right or if I just sounded like I was pushing something out and they would. I could see from a cringe. Then slowly the accent started to build. I remember the first day of this big set located in Morocco. While was wearing an around the set. I sat there with the actors in a tent and I was talking with the accent because I decided I would do that throughout the workday. Then all started leaning me different. They were like, 'You know, you're really bad.' Ty, Toby and Richard invited me one for a beer that night which was really weird. Gemma was a little bit more flirtatious than normal. I thought, I'm making this accent work. They really think that I'm British."

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JAKE Gyllenhaal, with co-star Gemma Arterton, on how he got his muscled physique. "It was total devotion."

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Drama Actress woos female co-stars

DRAMA ACTRESS ROSS Head-ly has had her share of failed loves in the past. Ads has her included those Bo Sandoz and Sydney Hensen, a male alleges.

Turned out DA started early.

According to Beautiful Gen. temporary, DA courted her when they were youngers.

BC and DA allegedly were steady and DA gifted BC with jewelry to seal the deal.

Years later, when Gamerow and Star joined the biz, DA also treated her.

Also, DA is no "boy crazy" to fall for GA.

Jabbos buys' new home

Formerly Jobless Stars have found a new home to another company.

JBT left his old studio after Guy Sanchezer failed to deliver hints and hotties. JBT allegedly confessed that he didn't have much luck in the romance department...whatever with girls or guys.

JBT and JBT found their solace in the dumpster after refusing to give in to the annoyance design of billionaire Guy.

VALERIE Concepcion

With BF rumors finally take off in their new home?

Not much...still a Powerful Guy get in their way again?

Rejected thrice over

Three Top Directors reportedly rejected a major studio's conspiring offer to take over the reins of the studio's franchise.

BP has been languishing in limbo of late and the TDs don't want to be blamed if the ship sinks.

Why real IS account features only blonde-and-white portrait as a golden s-bs Madonna. The hopeful is using my photo in a remodeling article," Ai Ai related.

Private, the pretender invited the real Ai Ai to her last PR festival.

"I didn't know whether to be flattered or frustrated. The

Ade Ai Ai seems her birth year as 1982. Because a source claims that

Scared, hopeful Val

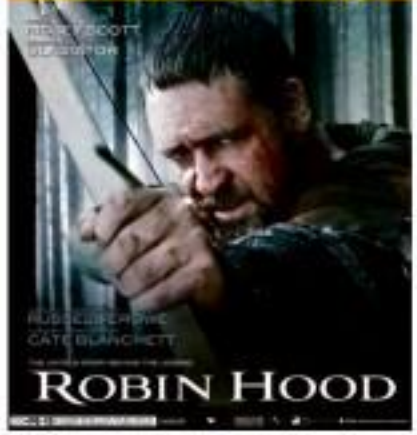
"Witnesses" co-host Valerie Concepcion is worried that she may lose her job if Willie Revillame decides to resign and the show folds up, all due to the latter's losing his seat as fellow ABS-CBN talent Robert Arevalo's co-star in "Wowowin."

"I hope it's not true. Willie left had become Arbet's a Kapamilya, too. He'd rather that circumstance be directed at him...not at the show. The show is his entire life here," said Valerie.

As how Jinnah and Arevalo were fun-dance endorser, Valerie warned

DIANA RO

NOW SHOWING



Good comedy cast thrills director

By Marinel R. Cruz

CHRIS MARTINEZ, WRITER-director of the critically acclaimed drama "2DO," is hoping that comedienne Eugene Domingo's recent flood-related rescue would boost the box-office potential of his latest film "Here Comes the Bride."

"In this movie, Eugene plays a role that only she can portray effectively," Martinez told boy.net.ph/entertainment. "I'm happy that she agreed to do this project. I hope that her award would help this movie in the box-office. You see, people know that it is a movie featuring Uge (Eugene's nickname), they will surely enjoy it."

TAKE FIVE

Eugene bagged a Best Actress trophy from the recently-concluded Golden Screen Awards for her performance in the Jayne Rivetal comedy "Ang Babae sa Septic Tank," which Martinez also wrote. She played the role of Ruby, a loyal friend to Mylene Dizon's character, Joyce, in Martinez's debut film "2DO."

"Uge called me on the phone just when she was about to receive the award. My limb cried about the good news. She deserved the award," the director said. For "Here Comes the Bride," Eugene also received Best Actress nominations from the Metrostar ng Pelikulang Pilipino and the organizers of the recent Gawad Urian Awards for Movies.

CHRIS Martinez. "Eugene is my best actress."

In "Here Comes the Bride," Eugene is Percy the self-conscious but outspoken lawyer and godmother of the bride Stephanie (Angelica Panganiban). On the latter's wedding day, a freak car accident happens, causing a major mix-up. Stephanie's hand is transferred to Percy's, who, in turn, goes into the body of Madelyn (Tuesday Vargas), the groom.

Madelyn's soul gets trapped inside the body of Lito Boo (Jaime Salavaga), the rude pastol pastmaster of the groom's family. Percy's soul is transferred to the body of the flamboyant makeup artist Bobb (Jaime Lagmay), whose soul goes into Stephanie's body. A lot of Mooperi happens along the way as these characters try to find a way to undo this catastrophic exchange.

Did any of your actors try to outshine the others?

If only the Philippines has its version of the SAG (Screen Actors Guild) award, this group would win Best Ensemble Acting. They worked as a team—unbelievably supportive. They all helped make this movie possible. I'm lucky to be able to work with these five actors. They're talented, hardworking and all have great comedic timing.

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